Northwest Colorado Fire Program Area Fire Management Plan

2016

Prepared and Recommended By: _/s/ William Colt Mortenson_____ NW Colorado Fire Management Unit FMO — 06/01/2016 Date

Approved By: _____ Northwest District Manger — 6-2-16 Date

_____ Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge — _____ Date

Or

_____ Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge — _____ Date

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.A. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Program Fire Management Plan (FMP) is to identify and integrate all wildland fire management guidance, direction, and activities required to implement national fire policy and fire management direction in a single document. The FMP allows management direction to be easily accessible by fire and resource personnel. It highlights management direction to facilitate development and implementation of fire management strategies.

The Department of Interior (DOI) policy requires that every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved fire management plan. Fire management plans are strategic plans that define a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the area's approved land management plans. Fire management plans must provide for firefighter and public safety, include fire management strategies, tactics and alternatives; address values to be protected and public health issues; and be consistent with resource management objectives, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations (USDI/USDA FS 2001). This plan fulfills that requirement and provides the guidance necessary to manage wildland fire in a safe and cost effective manner to achieve the management objectives of the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit (NWCFMU) and other government agencies and partner entities it serves in accordance with applicable policies and regulations.

1.B. LOCATION

The Northwest Colorado Fire Management Plan provides direction and guidance for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in Northwest Colorado, which include The Little Snake, White River, and Kremmling Field Offices and Browns Park and Arapahoe Fish and Wildlife Refuges. This area covers just over 8.5 million acres of state, private and federal lands. The total acres of BLM and FWS lands are just over 3.1million acres and this plan applies to these acres.

Agency	Acres	Counties Represented
BLM Kremmling Field Office	377,900	Grand, Jackson, Routt, Eagle, Summit, Larimer
BLM Little Snake Field Office	1,300,000	Routt, Rio Blanco, Moffat
BLM White River Field Office	1,455,900	Garfield, Rio Blanco, Moffat
Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge	12,150	Moffat
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge	23,464	Jackson
Colorado side of the Medicine Bow-Routt NF	1,125,438	Grand, Jackson, Routt, Eagle, Summit, Larimer
Dinosaur National Monument	210,844	Moffat, Uintah in Utah
State and Private Lands (estimated)	4,000,000	All the above
Total Acres	**8,505,696**	

Table 1 List land ownership in acres by agency.

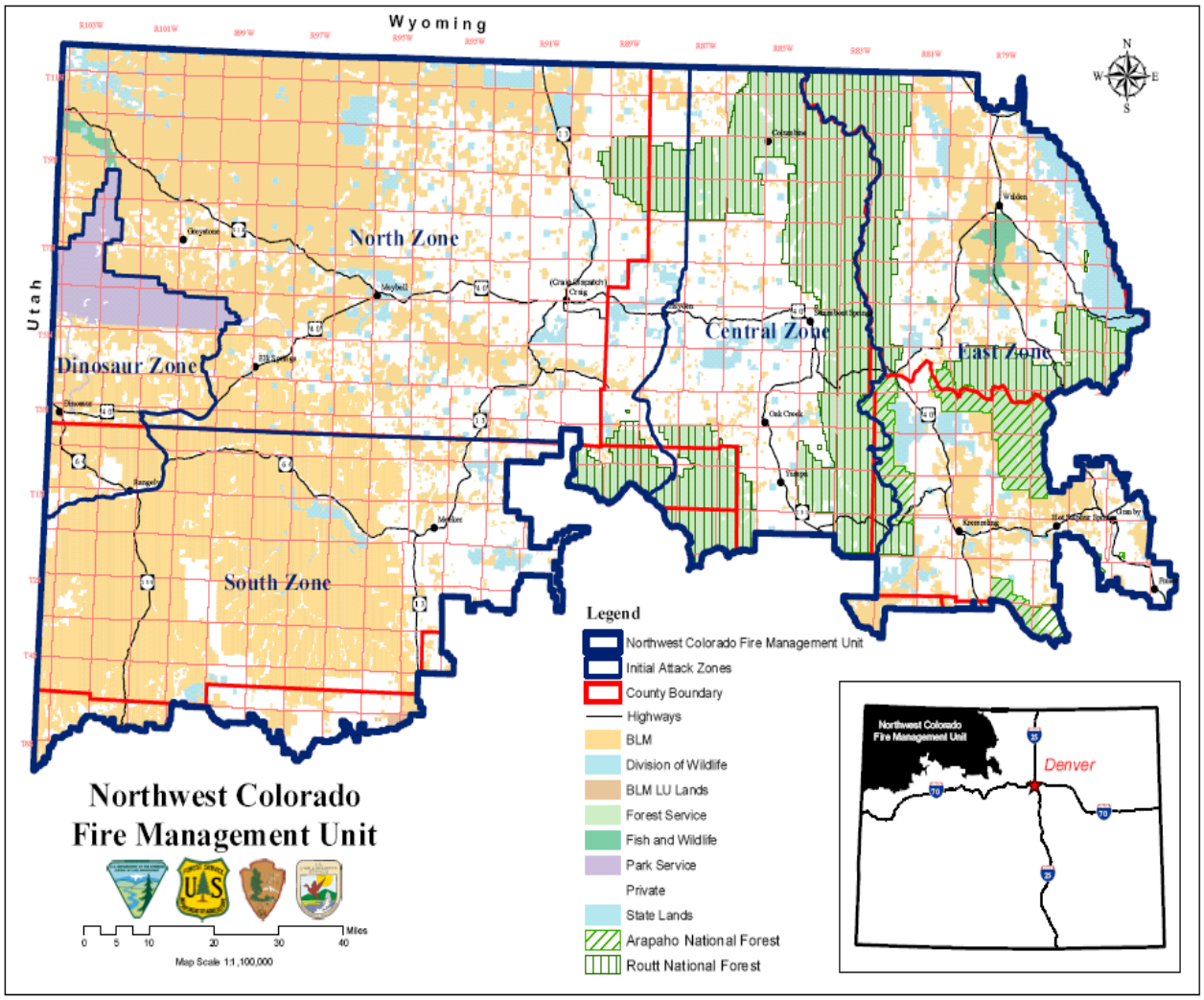

Figure 1 NWCFMU land ownership map for all of the Craig Interagency Dispatch Area

This FMP allows management direction to be easily accessible by fire and resource personnel. It highlights management direction to facilitate development and implementation of appropriate fire management strategies. FMPs are not static documents. This document will evolve and be revised as conditions change on the ground and as modifications are made to the Federal agencies' Resource Management Plans or as new NEPA decision are produced for the Bureau of Land Management's Fire Management Plans.

This document provides information, organized by Fire Management Units (FMUs), which provides a finer scale summarization of information than is possible at the BLM and FWS Field Office Level. These descriptions bring specific detail about the identifiable areas on the ground.

CHAPTER 2. POLICY, LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

2.1 FIRE POLICY

"Fire, as a critical natural process, will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale, and across agency boundaries. Response to wildland fire is based on ecological, social, and legal consequences of fire. The circumstances under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected dictate the appropriate management response to fire" (1995/2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy).

2.1.A. FEDERAL WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY

- **Federal Wildland Fire Policy**
  This FMP meets the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy by following these guiding principles:

  1. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity.

  2. The role of wildland fire as an essential ecological process and natural change agent will be incorporated into the planning process. Federal agency land and resource management plans set the objectives for the use and desired future condition of the various public lands.

  3. Fire Management Plans (FMPs), programs, and activities support Land and Resource Management Plans and their implementation.

  4. Sound risk management is a foundation for all fire management activities. Risks and uncertainties relating to fire management activities must be understood, analyzed, communicated, and managed as they relate to the cost of either doing or not doing an activity. Net gains to the public benefit will be an important component of decisions.

  5. Fire management programs and activities are economically viable, based upon values to be protected, costs, and land and resource management objectives. Federal Agency Administrators are adjusting and re-organizing programs to reduce costs and increase efficiencies. As part of this process, investments in fire management activities must be evaluated against other agency programs in order to effectively accomplish the overall mission, set short and long term priorities, and clarify management accountability.

  6. FMPs and activities are based upon the best available science. Knowledge and experience are developed among all wildland fire management agencies. An active

fire research program combined with interagency collaboration provides the means to make these tools available to all fire managers.

7. FMPs and activities incorporate public health and environmental quality considerations.

8. Federal, state, tribal, local, interagency, and international coordination and cooperation are essential. Increasing costs and smaller work forces require that public agencies pool their human resources to successfully deal with the ever-increasing and more complex fire management tasks. Full collaboration among federal agencies and between the federal agencies, international, state, tribal, and local governments, and private entities results in a mobile fire management work force available for the full range of public needs.

9. Standardization of policies and procedures among federal agencies is an ongoing objective. Consistency of plans and operations provides the fundamental platform upon which federal agencies can cooperate, integrate fire activities across agency boundaries, and provide leadership for cooperation with state, tribal, and local fire management organizations.

- **National Fire Plan Goals**
  This FMP meets the policy and direction in the National Fire Plan because it emphasizes the four primary goals of the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and Cohesive Strategy for Protecting People and Sustaining Natural Resources:

  1. Improving fire prevention and suppression;
  2. Reducing hazardous fuels;
  3. Restoring fire-adapted ecosystems; and
  4. Promoting community assistance.

2.1.B. UNIT SPECIFIC POLICIES

Instruction Memorandum Number CON000-2013-001 Northwest Colorado Team Participation and Critical Shortage Positions

2.2. LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The following are Field Office and District specific policies that are associated with fire management within the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit.

- Kremmling Resource Area Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, 1983
- Little Snake Resource Area Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, 2011
- White River Resource Area Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, 1996

- Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge (2001), Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge (1999)
- White River Field Office Fire Management Plan and Environmental Analysis, 1998
- Little Snake and Brown's Park Fire Management Plan and Environmental Analysis, 2000, Documentation of Land Use Plan and NEPA Adequacy (2002)

2.3.A PARTNERSHIPS

The Craig Interagency Fire Management Group (CIFMG) coordinates fire management planning within the Craig Dispatch area. CIFMG leads a cooperative effort to assist with all phases of wildland fire management in Northwestern Colorado. The group's mission is to promote safe, effective fire management through interagency cooperation. Because many wildland fires are of a multi-jurisdictional nature, interagency cooperation provides an ideal background for cohesive ecological, social, political, and economic considerations for land management. CIFMG is comprised of four Federal land agencies and five counties: the U.S. Forest Service (USFS); Bureau of Land Management (BLM); National Park Service (NPS); and National Fish and Wildlife Service. The five counties are Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Routt and Rio Blanco. CIFMG continually assesses new opportunities for collaboration on fire management planning. Close collaboration between the BLM and FWS occurred during the development of this plan. The Forest Service and National Park Service have completed their own fire management plans. Each county has a wildland fire annual operating plan which is prepared in collaboration with the CIFMG and The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

CHAPTER 3. FIRE MANGEMENT UNIT CHARACTIERISTICS

The primary purpose of developing Fire Management Units (FMUs) in fire management planning is to assist in organizing information about complex landscapes. The process of establishing FMUs divides the landscape into smaller geographic areas that more easily describe physical, biological, and social characteristics, and guide and depict associated planning based on these characteristics. The Unit's FMP has been tiered to decisions contained within the three Field Office Resource Management Plans and the Federal Wildland Fire Policy.

3.1. AREA-WIDE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Northwest Colorado Fire Management Program Area Fire Management Plan strives toward consistency across boundaries with all cooperating agencies and provides wildland fire guidance and direction that will allow for a full range of responses to wildland fire. The plan will also provide local governments the support and guidance necessary to address wildland fire management issues jointly with Federal agencies.

This plan has three main purposes:

- To guide the decision-making process of evaluating and responding to fires in the NWCFMU.

- To lay the foundation for fuels management projects and activities in the NWCFMU.
- To provide an interagency platform for federal fire management and planning that allows agencies to cooperate more fully across jurisdictional boundaries.

Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy directs federal agencies to achieve a balance between suppression to protect life, property, and resources, and fires managed for resource benefits. To that end, wildland fire will be managed using the following criteria:

- **Response to Wildland Fire** - All unwanted wildland fires will be suppressed. Protection priorities will be addressed in Section 4. The full range of wildland fire management strategies may be used. The full spectrum of management responses strategies is available within fire management units B, C, and D (See Table 2) from actively suppressing the fire due to values to be protected to monitoring the fire while allowing it to play its natural role within the ecosystem.

- **Prescribed Fire** - Prescribed fire will continue to be used within FMUs B, C, and D to meet identified resource management or hazard fuel reduction objectives. Use of prescribed fire will be guided by agency planning documents and consultation with appropriate agency staff.

- **Non-Fire Application** – Mechanical and chemical treatments may be performed as needed within the FMUs in areas not designated as wilderness or potential wilderness or similarly restricted (i.e. Heritage sites). The primary purpose of these treatments is to achieve hazard fuel reduction in those locations where the use of prescribed fire is not feasible.

3.1.B. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT GOALS

The primary goal of this document is to provide for firefighter and public safety, protect public and private property, heritage and natural resource values. Bureau policy and the Wildland Fire Policy and Program Review direct an agency administrator to use the appropriate management strategy concept when selecting specific actions to implement protection and resource management objectives. This plan identifies criteria that will help determine the response to wildland fire for all fire starts on public lands in the planning area. The safety of firefighter personnel and equipment and the public will remain the primary consideration when determining the appropriate fire management response. Other items considered are resource management objectives, the natural role of fire in the ecosystem, long and short seasonal drying trends, observed burning potential, daily weather predictions, fire danger indices for each fire, fire suppression costs and net value change, including the loss of private property.

The fire management goals identified below were created with interagency coordination for the management of BLM and FWS lands within the Craig Dispatch area.

- **Goal: Safety/Health** – Maintain levels of readiness, initiate and complete actions to effectively manage all unplanned wildland fire ignitions in a manner that

provides for the safety and health of employees and the public in compliance with all Departmental and agency policies and cooperative agreements.

- **Goal: Natural Fire –** Establish and maintain a program for the use of naturally occurring fire in accordance with Departmental and agency policy and scientifically-based parameters, that maximizes opportunity for fires to run their natural course, managed only as necessary to address health and safety issues and protect life, property, and other values at risk.
- **Goal: Restoration/Maintenance –** Initiate prudent fire management actions, in concert with resource management planning, and a system of fire effects monitoring and analysis, to restore and maintain natural biodiversity.
- **Goal: Endangered Species/Heritage Sites/Wilderness Values –** Minimize impacts of wildland fires and suppression actions to threatened and endangered species, wilderness values and heritage sites while continuing to minimize human interference with the natural role of fire. Use prescribed fire to protect, maintain, and restore critical species habitat, heritage sites, and wilderness values.
- **Goal: Staffing/Equipment –** Obtain and maintain the necessary staffing and equipment, in accordance with NWCG standards and agency policy, to manage wildland and prescribed fires to meet resource management goals and to safely provide protection to health, life and property**.**
- **Goal: Cooperative Efforts** – Continue to implement cooperative management efforts and agreements with State, local and other Federal agencies to provide efficient, cost effective, fire management activities, which mitigate wildland fire risks and meet resource management needs.
- **Goal: Fire Education** – Provide educational opportunities for agency personnel, cooperators, other government agencies, and the public regarding the natural role of fire and fire management and prevention.
- **Goal: Monitoring** – Monitor fire effects, environmental conditions, and fire behavior to insure management and fire incident objectives are met.

3.1.C. FIRE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS COMMON TO ALL FMU'S

- Firefighter and public safety is the first priority and all strategies will reflect this commitment. The protection of human life is the single, overriding suppression priority. Setting priorities within communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the cost of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected.
- Fires will be suppressed at minimum costs, considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected, consistent with resource objectives.
- Protect heritage resources.
- Inform Heritage of any cultural resources encountered during suppression activities.

- Protect identified threatened and endangered species habitat, heritage sites, administrative sites, recreation sites and structures on public lands, and oil and gas wells and associate infrastructure.
- Consult appropriate resource specialists to ensure that resource management concerns are adequately addressed and that necessary mitigation of suppression activities occurs.
- Restrict aerial applications of foam or retardant within 300 feet of any body of water, including lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds. Exceptions can be made to protect life or property, firefighter safety, and when the potential damage to natural resources outweigh possible loss of aquatic life.
- All prescribed fires and multiple objective wildland fires will consider the impacts of smoke on Class 1 Airsheds and non-attainment areas.
- Staging areas and fire camps should not be located on sites with noxious weed infestations.
- Rehabilitation and restoration efforts will be undertaken to protect public health and safety, sustain ecosystems, and to help protect infrastructure.

Predictable weather patterns, fuel conditions, fire behavior and located in the Craig Interagency Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan

3.2 Fire Management Unit-Specific Description

As part of the planning process that identified the four distinct FMUs, the interdisciplinary teams developed desired fire management objectives for each area. While these management objectives focus on creating healthy landscapes, they also address in general terms the impact of fire on wildlife, livestock, and other resources. They also recognize that flora and fauna native to the NWCFMU evolved in an environment where fire played a major role. However, the absence of fire as the result of suppression activities has also had a role in shaping ecosystems and the life they support. To assess the desired role of fire in each polygon, consideration was given to the impact of fire itself, both the short-term and long-term beneficial and adverse effects of fire, as well as the impacts of a range of fire suppression actions, from full-suppression tactics to less aggressive strategies. Through this process it was determined that wildland fire can be used to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its natural ecological role. The use of wildland fire will be based on the guidance found in this fire management plan and will follow specific prescriptions contained in operational plans.

The resulting fire management objectives that came from this process mitigate potential negative impacts to resources from fire and fire suppression activities by establishing limitations on numbers of acres burned, burning seasons, and fire suppression actions. This plan ensures that fire, as a critical natural process, will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale, and across agency boundaries. Response to wildland fire is based on ecological, social and legal consequences of the fire.

Specific Fire Management Objectives and Strategies for each FMUs are outlined below:

Table 8: Values at Risk by Fire Management Unit

FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT A
FMU A is composed of areas where wildland fire is not desired at all. This FMU includes areas where mitigation and suppression are required to prevent direct threats to life or property. FMU A may include areas where fire never played a large role historically in the development and maintenance of the ecosystem, where fire return intervals are very long, or because of human development, fire can no longer be tolerated without significant monetary loss.
(1) Overview
Location: The polygons that make up this FMU are scattered throughout the NWCFMU. A map showing the location of the polygons can be found in Appendix E
Characteristics: Specific characteristics for each polygon can be found in each of the polygon descriptions found in Appendix A.
Specific Fire Management Objectives: Specific fire management objectives for each polygon can be found in the polygon descriptions found in Appendix A.
Fire History: Fire suppression history for the NWCFMU has been documented in Craig Interagency Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan.
Fire Regime/Condition Class: Fire regime and condition class information has been described in each FMU in Appendix A and are identified on maps in Appendix E.
Values at Risk: Scattered rural residences, developments and improvements (campgrounds, communication sites, guard stations), oil and gas facilities, mines and historical and archeological sites.
Communities at Risk: No communities at risk have been identified in this FMU
(2) Fire Management Objectives
Fire Suppression Objectives: • All fires in this FMU will be aggressively suppressed. Ninety percent of fires at all Fire Intensity Levels (FIL) will be held to ¼ acre or less in order to protect key resource values. • Protect facilities and structures at campsites and interpretive sites, recreation sites, communications sites, heritage sites, a compressor station and oil and gas facilities, mine sites and cottonwood riparian areas from unwanted wildland fire.
Special Conditions that Result in Extreme Fire Behavior, Resistance to Control or Safety: Certain sites are located in areas with heavy fuel loading to the exterior of the polygon boundary.

Suppression Strategies:

- Wildland fires occurring in this FMU will be aggressively suppressed.
- No dozers will be used within the perimeter of the polygon within 1/8th mile of known heritage sites, except to provide for firefighter or public safety.

Suppression and Constraints: Specific constraints for each polygon can be found in the Polygon descriptions found in Appendix A.

Fire Managed for Multiple Objectives: Wildland fire managed for resource benefit is not an identified fire management option within this FMU.

Non-Fire Fuel Treatment Objectives:

- One mechanical/spray treatment within the FMU annually to control cheatgrass.
- Evaluate yearly to ensure that there are no accumulations of hazard fuels around oil and gas facilities on public lands; treat one site per year using mechanical means to treat accumulated fuels.
- Mechanically treat vegetation to reduce or change condition class to lower level.

Post Fire Restoration/Rehabilitation: See Chapter 4

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives: There are no communities at risk identified in this FMU.

(3) FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT B

FMU B is made up of polygons where wildland fire played a role in the function of the ecosystem but where unwanted wildland fire could have a negative effect without mitigation. Negative effects include risks to private lands, improvements in the wildland-urban interface, important heritage resources, critical habitat, areas with unnatural fuel buildup, and areas where a viable seed bank does not exist for natural reseeding.

(4) Overview

Location: The polygons that make up this FMU are scattered throughout the NWCFMU. A map showing the location of the polygons can be found in Appendix E

Characteristics: Specific characteristics for each polygon can be found in each of the polygon descriptions found in Appendix A.

Fire Management Objectives:
General Objectives:

- Protect wildland interface, commercial timber, and municipal watersheds.
- Reduce the occurrence and impact of wildland fire to big game severe winter range, Sage grouse habitat, and potential lynx habitat.

- Improve critical wildlife habitat
- Reduce accumulations of hazardous fuels in the wildland-urban interface in order to protect life and property and provide for firefighter safety.

Specific Fire Management Objectives for each polygon can be found in the polygon descriptions found in Appendix A.

Fire History: Fire suppression history for the NWCFMU has been documented in Craig Interagency Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan.

Fire Regime/Condition Class: Fire regime and condition class information has been described in each FMU in Appendix A and are identified on maps in Appendix E.

Values at Risk:
Communities at risk, scattered rural residences and developments, commercial timber, watersheds, heritage sites, vegetative communities (Ponderosa pine, Mountain shrub, Cottonwood riparian areas, etc.) viewsheds, critical habitat, and oil and gas sites and associated facilities.

Communities at Risk: The communities of Steamboat, Elk River Corridor, Steamboat Lake, Hahns Peak, Columbine, Stagecoach, Morrison Creek, Wilderness Ranch, Baker's Peak, Freeman, and Knez Divide as well as several others are listed in the Federal Register Notice: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2001/08/17/01-20592/urban-wildland-interface-communities-within-the-vicinity-of-federal-lands-that-are-at-high-risk-from. There are others that are not listed in the Federal Register that may qualify as well.

(5) Fire Management Objectives

Fire Suppression Objectives:

All fires in this FMU will receive a suppression oriented response utilizing direct or Perimeter Strategy with the goal of suppressing 90% of all fires at 100 acres or less, depending on the polygon. Specific acreage limits are identified for each polygon in Appendix A.

Fire and Fuels Mitigation Considerations: Emphasis should be focused on prevention and mitigation programs that reduce unplanned ignitions and threats to life, property, and natural and cultural resources.
Use a combination of mechanical means and prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading around private land, in wildland-urban interface areas, and near oil and gas wells and associated facilities

(6) Fire Management Strategies

Special Conditions that Result in Extreme Fire Behavior, Resistance to Control or Safety: Certain sites are located in areas with heavy fuel loading to the exterior of the polygon boundary. Insect and disease infestation and drought conditions throughout the FMU have significantly increased the dead component. Examples include the Routt Divide blow down, Troublesome Creek, Flat Tops and Black Mountain.

Suppression Strategies: In most cases a direct suppression strategy will be employed at

PPL 4 and above. Specific strategy options are discussed in the polygon descriptions in Appendix A.

Suppression and Constraints: Specific restraints for each polygon can be found in each Polygon description found in Appendix A.

Use of Fire for Resource Benefit: Fire to meet multiple objectives will often have multiple constraints. However long-term strategies include the use of prescribed fire and other means to treat areas so that they can be moved into FMU C or FMU D in the future.

Non-Fire Fuel Treatment Objectives: The implementation of non-fire fuels treatment (mechanical and chemical) may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.

Post Fire Restoration/Rehabilitation:

- Monitor impacted areas for non-native species and reseed with native species if adequate seed bank does not exist and reseed as necessary.
- Monitor sites to determine that management objectives are being met and make adjustments as necessary.
- Through a program of monitoring and evaluation, reclassify polygons that can be identified as non-conditional, and move them to FMU C or FMU D.

For site-specific guidance see Chapter 4

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Create agreements that will allow fire to cross from public to private lands and prepare rehabilitation plans prior to a fire event.
- Increase awareness in the community of the necessity of creating defensible space and reducing the likelihood of unwanted wildland fire.

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FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT C

FMU C is made up of polygons where fire is desired but where there may be social, political, or ecological constraints that must be considered. These constraints could include air quality considerations, threatened or endangered species considerations, or other habitat considerations (both spatial and temporal).

(7) Overview

Location: The polygons that make up this FMU are scattered throughout the NWCFMU. A map showing the location of the polygons can be found in Appendix E

Characteristics: Specific characteristics for each polygon can be found in each of the polygon descriptions found in Appendix A.

Fire Management Objectives:

General Objectives:

- Allow wildland fire to resume its role in the ecosystem to the extent possible.

However, the response to wildland fire will be dictated by values at risk and/or resource benefit opportunities utilizing full perimeter control, limited perimeter control, a confinement strategy, or monitoring.

- Use prescribed fire, mechanical and chemical means on a site-specific basis to improve habitat and critical winter range for identified species. Use fuel treatments to improve the shrub age class diversity and to enhance sage grouse habitat and potential lynx habitat.
- Provide the appropriate level of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities.
- Reduce accumulations of hazardous fuels in the wildland-urban interface in order to protect life and property and provide for firefighter safety.
- Provide protection for known heritage sites, scenic corridor and facilities, power lines, and other similar values.

Specific Fire Management Objectives for each polygon can be found in the polygon descriptions found in Appendix A.

Fire History: Fire suppression history for the NWCFMU has been documented in Craig Interagency Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan.

Fire Regime/Condition Class: Fire regime and condition class information has been described in each FMU in Appendix A and are identified on maps in Appendix E.

Values at Risk:

- Communities at risk and scattered rural residences and developments
- Oil & gas sites and associated facilities
- Vegetative communities (Ponderosa pine, sagebrush and bitter brush communities, mountain shrub, cottonwood riparian areas, etc.)
- Big game winter range and Sage grouse and other critical habitat
- Heritage sites
- Scenic corridor and recreation trails/recreation structures and improvements

Communities at Risk:
The communities of Western Knolls Subdivision, Lay, Maybell, Greystone, and Hamilton as well as several others are listed in the Federal Register Notice: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2001/08/17/01-20592/urban-wildland-interface-communities-within-the-vicinity-of-federal-lands-that-are-at-high-risk-from. There are others that are not listed in the Federal Register that may qualify as well.

(8) Fire Management Objectives

Fire Suppression Objectives:

- Fires may be managed for multiple objectives including the protection, maintenance and enhancement of resources in certain C polygons (See polygon descriptions in Appendix A).
- All other fires in this FMU will be suppressed using a suppression oriented response utilizing direct or perimeter Strategy with the goal of suppressing 85% of all

fires at 300 acres or less, depending on the polygon. Specific suppression targets are identified for each polygon.

- Use the appropriate management response to manage all fires within one mile of the community of Greystone in a manner that limits the acreage to ¼ acres or less.
- WFDSS will be used for fires not immediately suppressed or that escape initial management actions.
- Manage the number of acres burned or treated in certain polygons to the limits established for the polygon. These limits may be expressed in total acres and/or time of year.

Fire Mitigation Considerations: Emphasis should be focused on prevention and mitigation programs that reduce unplanned ignitions and threats to life, property, and natural and cultural resources.

(9) Fire Management Strategies

Special Conditions that Result in Extreme Fire Behavior, Resistance to Control or Safety: Certain sites are located in areas with heavy fuel loading to the exterior of the polygon boundary. Insect and disease and drought conditions throughout the FMU have significantly increased the dead component.

Suppression Strategies:

- Response to wildland fire will be dictated by values at risk and/or resource benefit opportunities utilizing full perimeter control, limited perimeter control, a confinement strategy, or monitoring.
- MIST will be used whenever possible.
- No dozers will be used within 1/8th mile of known heritage sites, except to provide for firefighter or public safety.

Suppression and Constraints: Specific restraints for each polygon can be found in each polygon description found in Appendix A.

Use of Fire for Resource Benefit:

- Naturally occurring ignitions and prescribed fire will be used to improve site health and control build-up of fuels.
- Use a combination of mechanical means and prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading around private land, in wildland-urban interface areas, and near oil and gas wells and associated facilities.
- Use a combination of mechanical means and prescribed fire to improve and maintain critical habitat.
- Use prescribed fire and other means to treat areas so that they can be moved into FMU C or FMU D.

Non-Fire Fuel Treatment Objectives: The implementation of non-fire fuels treatment (mechanical and chemical) may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.

Post Fire Restoration/Rehabilitation:

- Monitor impacted areas for non-native species and reseed with native species if adequate seed bank does not exist. Reseed as necessary.
- Monitor sites to determine that management objectives are being met and make adjustments as necessary.
- Through a program of fire use, fuels mitigation, monitoring and evaluation, reclassify polygons as appropriate to FMU D.

For site-specific guidance see Chapter 4.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Create agreements that will allow fire to cross from public to private lands and prepare rehabilitation plans prior to a fire event.
- Increase awareness in the community of the necessity of creating defensible space reducing the impacts of unwanted wildland fire.

FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT D

FMU D is made up of polygons where fire is allowed to function in its natural ecological role and there are few to no constraints to its use. These areas offer the greatest opportunity to take advantage of the full range of options available to the resource manager for managing fire for resource benefits.

(10) Overview

Location: The polygons that make up this FMU are scattered throughout the NWCFMU. A map showing the location of the polygons can be found in Appendix E

Characteristics: Specific characteristics for each polygon can be found in each of the polygon descriptions found in Appendix A.

Fire Management Objectives:

General Objectives:

- Wildland fire will be used to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its natural ecological role. The use of fire is based on an approved fire management plan and will follow specific guidance developed through the WFDSS system for each individual fire managed for multiple objectives.
- Use wildland fire to create a mosaic of vegetative age classes in all plant communities.
- Provide the appropriate level of protection for values at risk that may include: oil and gas sites and associated facilities, private property, known heritage sites, scenic corridors and facilities, power lines, and other similar values.

Specific Fire Management Objectives for each polygon can be found in the polygon descriptions found in Appendix A.

Fire History: Fire suppression history for the NWCFMU has been documented in Craig Interagency Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan.

Fire Regime/Condition Class: Fire regime and condition class information has been described in each FMU in Appendix A and are identified on maps in Appendix E.

Values at Risk:

- Scattered rural residences and developments
- Primary and secondary dwellings/Urban interface
- Scenic corridor and recreation trails, recreation structures and improvements

Communities at Risk:
The community of Elk Springs is listed in the Federal Register Notice: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2001/08/17/01-20592/urban-wildland-interface-communities-within-the-vicinity-of-federal-lands-that-are-at-high-risk-from. There may be others that are not listed in the Federal Register that may qualify as well.

(11) Fire Management Objectives

Fire Suppression Objectives:

- A WFDSS Analysis will be completed for all wildland fires in this FMU that escape initial management actions or that are being managed for multiple objectives.
- Use established limits on the number of acres burned as defined for a specific polygon to achieve a mosaic of age classes and vegetation diversity.
- Specific treatment targets and restrictions are identified for each polygon.
- Protect identified values at risk.

Fire Mitigation Considerations: Emphasis should be focused on prevention and mitigation programs that reduce unplanned ignitions and threats to life, property, and natural and cultural resources.

(12) Fire Management Strategies

Special Conditions that Result in Extreme Fire Behavior, Resistance to Control or Safety: Certain sites are located in areas with heavy fuel loading. Insect and disease infestation and drought conditions throughout this FMU have significantly increased the dead component.

Suppression Strategies:

- Response to wildland fire will be dictated by values at risk while emphasizing resource benefit opportunities utilizing the full range of response strategies including monitoring and surveillance. Fires in D polygons offer the most response strategy flexibility.
- MIST will be used whenever possible.
- Restrict use of retardant in the various ACEC, wilderness areas and WSAs unless approved by the appropriate Agency Administrator.

Suppression and Constraints: Specific restraints for each polygon can be found in each polygon description found in Appendix A.

Multiple Management Objectives:

- Use naturally ignited wildland fires and prescribed fire to improve and maintain critical habitat.

Non-Fire Fuel Treatment Objectives: The implementation of non-fire fuels treatment (mechanical and chemical) may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. One treatment for 250 acres annually.

Post Fire Restoration/Rehabilitation:

- Monitor impacted areas for non-native species and reseed with native species if adequate seed bank does not exist and reseed as provided for in a rehabilitation plan.
- Monitor sites to determine that management objectives are being met and make adjustments as necessary.

For site-specific guidance see Chapter 4.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Create agreements that will allow fire to cross from public to private lands and prepare rehabilitation plans prior to a fire event.
- Increase awareness in the community of the necessity of creating defensible space and reducing the likelihood of unwanted wildland fire.

CHAPTER 4. WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

4.1. MANAGEMENT OF UNPLANNED IGNITIONS

The Fire Management within the NWCFMU consists of responses to wildland fire and fuels management implementation programs. The fire management programs will be implemented through Response to Wildland Fire. The implementation procedures for these specific components are addressed in this section.

The implementation of the fire management program will be guided through the analysis of historic fire behavior indices found in the Craig Interagency Fire Danger and Preparedness Plan. This analysis provides a series of threshold values used to determine when and where specific portions of the fire program will be implemented. This helps fire managers and line officers to quickly narrow the range of management options for specific fires and select the most appropriate response for the given time, and place. Table 2 describes the response strategy based on the Fire Management Unit's four polygon descriptions.

Table 2: Fire Management Units – Wildland Fire Response Strategies

Fire Management Unit	Response Strategy
A: Wildfire and prescribed fire not desired.	Full Suppression response utilizing Direct Strategy. Initial action on human-caused fires will be to suppress the fire at lowest cost with the fewest negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety.
B: Wildfire is desired but limited due to social, political and resource value protection. Prescribed fire desired.	Suppression oriented response utilizing Direct or Perimeter Strategy but managing fire for resource benefits is still an option. Prescribed fire used to reduce fuels and to maintain ecosystem health.
C : Wildland fire desired but some constraints may limit the potential fires managed for resource benefits.	Response to wildland fire dictated by values at risk and/or resource benefit opportunities utilizing full perimeter control, limited perimeter control, a confinement strategy, or monitoring.
D : Wildland fire desired with few constraints.	Response to wildland fire dictated by values at risk while emphasizing resource benefit opportunities utilizing the full range of response strategies including monitoring and surveillance. Fires in D polygons offer the most response strategy flexibility.

On multiple ignition days incident priorities will be based on the above management priorities and resources respond based on the NWCFMU Initial Response Guide (Run Cards) found in Appendix E:

4.1.A Preparedness

The operational roles of the Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit in the wildland/urban interface are wildland firefighting, hazard fuels reduction, cooperative prevention and education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of tribal, state, or local governments, as described in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

Agency administrators will ensure that employees are trained, certified and available to participate in the wildland fire program locally, regionally and nationally as the situation demands, as described in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.

Following current land management direction, the NWCFMU response to wildland fire will be in accordance with management objectives and based on current conditions and fire location. Suppression efforts will be implemented at minimum cost, considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected, consistent with resource objectives. Every wildland fire will receive an appropriate response to protect firefighter and public safety, values at risk, and minimize suppression costs. That response can vary from aggressive initial action in the wildland urban interface to monitoring. See detailed description of FMU's for specific suppression objectives and fire management constraints in Appendix A.

This FMP identifies suppression objectives that vary by vegetation type, geographical area, and response time, considering safety, resource objectives, fire hazards, and values at risk. Each FMU has been assigned a priority rating to direct suppression actions in the event of multiple ignitions. Objectives, priorities, and strategies are tailored to address areas with significant resource concerns such as rural or urban interface, commercial timber, areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), critical habitat for T&E species and areas with invasive non-native species, erodible soils and historic and cultural sites.

Annual operating fire plans exist with Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Larimer, Eagle, Summit, Garfield and Routt counties. These plans cover initial attack responses, mutual aid, and other procedural and cost reimbursement topics between cooperating agencies. The plans are reviewed and renewed annually. These plans are available on the Craig Interagency Dispatch web site:
http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2crc/dispatch/CRC%20Plans%20and%20Guides.html

4.1.A.1 Fire Training Activities

a. Critical Qualification and Position Needs: The NWCFMU has an established red card committee consisting of the two Zone FMO's, the program AFMO and FMO, plus CIDC center manager. The purpose of the committee is to have a formalized process to review and recommend task books for approval by the NWCFMU FMO. All personnel involved in fire assignments are qualified as per NWCG and agency policy performance levels. This consolidated approach also allows for trainees to be prioritized and assure training/experience is gained. To assure a comprehensive and coordinated effort in the qualification and position needs

the agency administrator and employee's roles need to be clearly understood by all involved parties.

In addition to reviewing individuals' training/experience/qualifications, the committee looks at overall training needs of specific employees and the organization as a whole to identify and correct deficiencies. This review will allow the NWCFMU to identify trainings to host locally to meet the unit's needs and use training funds more effectively. Copies of training records and qualifications are located in the Craig Interagency Dispatch Center.

The red card committee will review as needed wildland and prescribed fire qualifications for all unit personnel. This group reviews the list of personnel qualified by positions to undertake assignments in support of wildland or prescribed fire and identifies positions where insufficient personnel are qualified and available to meet short term management goals.

The training needs assessment is forwarded to the Rocky Mountain Area Training Committee for discussion at the area level. The Zone/Agency FMOs, through the red card committee, will identify individuals for priority classroom and on-the-job training assignments to address short-term needs by functional area.

To employ the strategies and mitigation measures stated above the NWCFMU will be emphasizing ecosystem management and fire use related training for their work force. This emphasis will provide a well-rounded, better-informed work force for the future, and provide the skills necessary to carry out an accelerated fuels reduction and fire use program.

The NWCFMU may host basic firefighter trainings annually (S-130, S-190, I-100) as well as annual refreshers, and physical fitness testing. The NWCFMU frequently is host to other trainings, including an annual engine academy for all suppression modules on the unit and surrounding units.

Fire Season Readiness**:**

- **Annual Review**: Annual readiness reviews are an integral part of the goal to ensure firefighter safety. In addition to refreshers, and training, the NWCFMU hosts an "engine orientation" to maintain consistency between modules, as well as safety training, and readiness exercises. The State BLM and FWS Mountain Prairie Regional Office visit the Unit to conduct annual reviews. The NWCFMU also hosts a national review every third year. Reports from these reviews can be found in the Craig Interagency Dispatch Center.

- **Fire Season Start and Stop Criteria**: Normally, the fire season begins April 1 and runs through October 21. Due to the variety of fire regimes across the NWCFMU, fire activity also shifts, but these dates represent the beginning and end of the normal seasons. These dates have been established using NFDRS historical analysis information using historical weather data. The unit has experienced fires outside of these dates, but these occur in more extreme years.

- **Fire Cache Considerations**: The NWCFMU fire cache system is centrally located at the NWCFMU center in Craig, CO. Each administrative unit maintains satellite caches in the respective offices (Meeker, Kremmling, and Browns Park), which support initial attack and extended attack in those zones. These satellite caches also support CIDC when necessary, or when CIDC cannot be supported by the RMACC or NIFC cache due to high fire activity.

- **Fire Training and Fitness Activities**: The agency administrators will ensure that their employees are trained, certified and made available to participate in the wildland fire program locally, regionally, and nationally as the situation demands. Employees with operational, administrative, or other skills will support the wildland fire program as necessary. Agency administrators are responsible and will be held accountable for making employees available as balanced by other agency priorities.

- **Recurring Training Activities**: Zone/Unit FMOs are the primary coordinators of training needs. All agency personnel having wildland fire qualifications in operations are required to attend an annual fire refresher. This refresher includes fire shelter training and practice deployment and recurrent safety topics such as Standards for Survival; Look Up, Look Down, Look Around; or similar safety oriented training. Training and fitness requirements for all personal involved in fire/suppression support can be found in the current Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Management. Annual attendance at refresher training and successful completion of the appropriate level of work capacity testing is a prerequisite for issuance of a red card. Periodic refresher training and work capacity testing sessions are conducted between February 1st and June 30th annually.

  All employees with support roles in fire suppression such as camp crew, dispatch, drivers, resource specialists and agency administrators are required to attend annual fire refresher training.

  NWCG basic firefighter training is offered annually to new employees and interested members of local cooperating agencies and fire departments. Part of this basic firefighter training can now be completed online

- **Recurring Fitness Activities**: Training and fitness requirements for all personal involved in fire/suppression support can be found in the current Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Management. Successful completion of the appropriate level of work capacity testing is a prerequisite for issuance of a red card.

4.1.A.2 DETECTION

Detection of wildland fires occurs in several ways:

- **Lookouts**: The fire program staffs, in partnership with the NPS, two lookout towers in the western portion of the NWCFMU. These lookouts, Zenobia and Roundtop are staffed daily during fire season.

- **Public Reports**: Fire reports via cell phone are becoming more common. Many of these calls are transferred from 911 services; while others are placed directly to the interagency dispatch center.

- **Cooperators**: Cooperators such as county sheriffs and personnel, state highway patrol and other emergency services will contact CIDC directly with information of fires. This information is very helpful, as these people are more versed in informational needs for appropriate suppression response. These reports also help in determining multiple reports of one fire, or multiple fires.

- **Permitees/Leasees**: These people are aware of our mission and also help in reporting fires to the dispatch center directly, or through local agency offices.

- **Resource Personnel**: Each administrative unit has a variety of resource people in the field at all times. Frequently, reports come from these field-going people.

- **Fire Personnel:** During preparedness level III and above, the fire program's preparedness levels (NWCFMU Operational Procedures Guide) directs detection protocol. Ground modules pre-position in key locations for detection and to reduce initial attack dispatch time. Aerial reconnaissance and pre-positioning occurs after lightning events.

- **Aerial Reconnaissance**: At preparedness level IV and above and after lightning events, aerial recon is instituted to help in detection, initial size-up, and assist ground suppression forces to fire location. Local ARA's are utilized when possible. DFPC as has a MMA aircraft that is often available. The contract air attack platform and available smokejumper aircraft can undertake aerial detection mission subject to their availability.

4.1.B INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

4.1.B.1 INITIAL ATTACK

a. Information Used to Set Initial Attack Priorities**:** Some of the fundamental criteria for setting initial attack priorities are shown below.

Interagency resources staffed by the NWCFMU are typically able to handle multiple initial attack actions simultaneously between zones. In instances where multiple wildfire starts require prioritization, the NWCFMU duty officer will consider the following criteria in assigning incident priorities:

- Imminent threat to firefighter and public safety or private property and improvements (protection priorities)
- Probability of success in using airtanker(s) to retard the rate of spread until ground-based resources are available
- Resource management plan direction for the management area
- Resource values at risk
- Projected commitment of initial attack resources
- Ability of cooperator resources to successfully conduct initial attack actions
- Road access or lack thereof
- Single or multiple jurisdictions involved or likely to be involved
- Current and predicted fire weather
- Fire behavior currently exhibited by ongoing incidents in similar fuel types
- Proximity to and probability of fire spread into critical fuel types.

The "Initial Attack Response Guide" housed in WILDCAD, and in Appendix C which is maintained at CDIC can be used as a guide by dispatch to determine appropriate resources to send on detection of a fire, determined by preparedness levels, which is based on elements that range from indices at varying levels to the amount of fire activity locally and regionally.

Night travel and work will be a standard practice, except where deemed unsafe because of conditions such as weather, fire behavior, difficult or unfamiliar terrain, or lack of adequate radio contact.

Firefighters will maintain radio contact with the CIDC while suppressing fires, and will check in at regular intervals. If the fire is in a location with poor or no radio communications a relay or portable repeater will be set up and maintained while firefighters are in that area.

b. Confinement as an Initial Attack Strategy: Less than full suppression tactics are discussed in the NWCFMU Operational Procedures Guide. The only recognized limited response tactic in the Federal Fire Management Policy (1995; 2001) is a confinement tactic. This tactic is used on the NWCFMU protected lands in areas that have natural boundaries and provide a compliment to firefighter safety.

c. Response Times: Response times are considered in initial attack dispatching. The NWCFMU uses the closest forces concept, and maintains coverage throughout the response area. The preparedness plan addresses the response times, and initiates pre-positioning during higher preparedness levels to reduce response time.

d. Restrictions and Special Concerns: Some areas of the NWCFMU have policy driven restrictions to operations, such as motorized use in wilderness. Areas of special concern include

threatened and endangered species habitat, and archeological sites. These special areas have restrictions over other areas. Each administrative unit's fire management plan identifies restrictions or issues of concern within specific polygon description in Appendix A, p. B-1 through B-175, and action to prevent adverse effects.

e. Social and Political Concerns: The NWCFMU incorporates a diverse corner of the state in terms of social attitudes, perceptions and understanding of fire's role in the ecosystem. The main concerns of the public revolve around: smoke issues, visual impacts, safety, economics, and health concerns. These concerns will be addressed on an incident-by-incident basis and may include public meetings, press releases, and individual contacts. Mitigation measures are included in the individual fire management plans.

All fires managed with suppression actions should be consistent with preplanned dispatch protocols in conformance with resource management objectives identified in this plan. Tactics and strategies will be based on the current and predicted weather and fire behavior. Firefighter and public safety is always the first priority. The highest priority FMUs within the fire-planning unit for initial attack are ranked as follows:

1.) FMU A
2.) FMU B
3.) FMU C
4.) FMU D

4.1.B.2 Extended Attack and Large Fire Suppression

Direction for extended attack and large fire suppression is outlined in the current Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations Manual.

A wildfire is considered to be in extended attack status when:

- Suppression efforts have not succeeded or are not expected to reach containment within 24 hours.
- The initial attack incident commander (ICT4 or ICT5) requests additional resources that result in fire complexity attaining Type III status within or following the first 24 hours following the arrival of the first suppression resources.

A WFDSS Decision will be completed on all extended attack fire or fire the is being managed for multiple objectives.

4.1.B.3 OTHER FIRE SUPPRESSION CONSIDERATIONS

a. Wildland Fire Decision Support System Documentation

The NWCFMU FMO or their designee will prepare a WFDSS decision document for all wildfires. Preparation of the WFDSS will be coordinated with the responsible agency administrator or designee.

The Agency Administrator is responsible for determining the incident objectives and selecting the preferred management strategy for the incident. Selection of the preferred management strategy should consider positive resource benefits resulting from wildfire as an objective.

The WFDSS decision must be consistent with the goals of the land use plan and must address the following:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection priorities
- Smoke management concerns
- A cost estimate for management of the fire must be derived. The proper level of approval will be indicated by this estimate

Agency Administrators will serve as Approvers of WFDSS decisions. Approval authorities and qualifications for agency administrators have been established for approving the WFDSS document. In addition, training and experience requirements must be met for an agency administrator to approve the WFDSS document. The following list identifies qualified agency administrator and their respective levels of authority:

- National Wildlife Refuge Manager: Approval authority up to $2 million.

- Field Manager/District will approve WFDSS decision and provide written notification to the state and /or national director when approaching $5 million and/or $10 million cost estimates.

b. Existing WFDSS Becomes Invalid: A new WFDSS document with required approval will be developed. The new WFDSS will still meet RMP and FMP direction for objectives and strategies, as well as an updated cost estimate to manage the incident.

c. Incident Management

1. Type III Incident Management: A Type III incident commander will manage incidents that reach a Type III complexity level and associated command and general staff positions as appropriate for the incident.

When a situation is beyond the NWCFMU capabilities, an Incident Management Team is brought in at the request of the agency administrator to manage the incident. The type ordered depends on the risk and complexity of the situation.

2. Type I or Type II Incident Management: An incident risk and complexity assessment is used to document the rationale of the fire management staff and responsible agency administrator in determining whether an extended attack incident is expected to, or has increased in complexity to warrant ordering a Type I or Type II IMT.

3. Transition Requirements for Incoming Incident Management Team: The following elements will be completed prior to the arrival of a Type 1 or Type 2 IMT to the zone:

- Approved WFDSS document to allow for adequate in-briefing and delegation of the team.
- Agency administrator briefing guide completed.
- Delegation of authority completed and signed by the agency administrator.

The ordering field office should also do the following prior to the arrival of the incoming team:

- Determine the fire camp/ICP location.
- Order supplies and equipment (pre-order), as directed by the logistics section chief.
- Make an ample supply of topographic maps, base maps, etc.
- Determine transportation needs of incoming fire teams (from ordering unit mobilization point to fire, and on the fire).
- Determine agency administrator briefing time and location.
- Obtain necessary information for the agency administrator briefing.
- Order communication equipment for the fire.

The NWCFMU FMO and agency administrator will conduct a briefing for the incoming fire team. The briefing should be by the agency administrator at a site away from the fire.

The agency administrator briefing should be as soon as possible after the arrival of the incident commander and his command and general staff. It is impossible to list everything a team needs to know; however, as a minimum the WFDSS and agency administrator briefing checklist should be completed.

The local incident commander briefing shall take place when the incoming team arrives at the fire. The incoming team will not assume responsibility for the fire until they are thoroughly briefed and comfortable with the situation. Both incident commanders shall determine the exact time of command change. After the briefing, the team should start transitioning into their areas of responsibility, but shall not assume control until the predetermined time.

The local unit's suppression forces may continue to work on the fire in various functions if available.

d. Dispatching resources**:** Initial attack is the responsibility of the CIDC. In most cases, when an incident management team (IMT) has been ordered, the CIDC center manager in consultation with the NWCFMU FMO will initiate an expanded dispatch plan to support the IMT.

e. Demobilization**:** Demobilization shall be carried out in an orderly manner to accomplish a cost effective program commensurate with efficient and effective organization practices. Planning for demobilization shall begin while the fire is being mobilized. Adequate records of personnel, transportation, and equipment used or being moved during mobilization are necessary. In many instances, communications for demobilization shall be through established dispatch channels. All release orders shall be recorded on the appropriate resource order form.

f. Release of Incident Management Team: an agency administrator or a designated representative must approve the date and time. The transition must be as smooth as possible and local fire team members should be assigned to start working with IMT members at a predetermined time. The local fire team should be rested prior to takeover.

The IMT should begin transitioning in the local team as soon as demobilization planning is complete and implementation is started. Fire management activity should be at a level and workload that NWCFMU personnel can reasonably handle.

Criteria to be considered before the release of an IMT team:

- Fire must be contained or in a condition where the complexity indicates a lower type of management organization.
- Most line crews should be released that are not need to patrol and/or mop up.
- Base fire camp shut down, reduced, or in the process.
- Plans chief has prepared a narrative fire report and individual fire report as part of the final fire package.
- Finance chief should have all known finance problems resolved. Contact made with budget and finance personnel. (Finance and/or logistics chief may have to stay longer or return to resolve problems.).
- Fire suppression rehabilitation work completed to NWCFMU's satisfaction or plan written to satisfaction.
- Performance ratings completed and submitted to NWCFMU as final package.

g. Debriefing: The responsible agency administrator and Unit FMO should debrief the IMT and prepare evaluation before release.

The responsible agency administrator, Unit FMO and center manager should give overall team performance evaluation in writing considering the following:

- Were incident objectives met?
- Were incident operations conducted in a cost effective manner?
- Outstanding or poor performance of individuals, crews, or others involved in the suppression, mobilization, and demobilization of the fire.

- Were there any special problems or recommendations to be brought to the attention of the regional fire coordinator (USFS) or the Colorado State FMO (BLM)?

h. Communications

2. Radio Communications/Procedures - Fire size-up information shall be communicated to the CIDC using the appropriate interagency frequency.

During an ongoing fire, interagency dispatchers may request that fire-related radio traffic be prioritized over routine resource management traffic on specific agency repeaters.

A list of available radio frequencies is available from the communications technician or zone fire management staff. A list of commonly used interagency and cooperator frequencies is included in the incoming resource briefing guide.

j. Wilderness Fire Suppression: Within the NWCFMU, the fire suppression policy for wilderness areas is to conduct all fire management activities in a manner compatible with overall wilderness management objectives. The responsible Agency Administrator is delegated the authority to approve the use of helicopters and ground-based mechanized equipment such as chainsaws and portable pumps within wilderness areas to respond to an emergency fire situation. The responsible zone FMO secures this approval on a case-by-case basis.

4.1.C. EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND 4.2. REHABILITATION

Emergency stabilization is defined as "Planned actions to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, to minimize threats to life and property resulting from the effects of a fire, or to repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources. Emergency Stabilization actions must be taken within one year following containment of a wildland fire." Rehabilitation is defined as "Efforts undertaken within three years of containment of a wildland fire to repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover naturally to management approved conditions, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire." Historically, emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ESR) workload has been approximately 4,000 acres per year.

1. Long-term Stabilization And Rehabilitation - All burned areas will be evaluated by agency resource specialists to determine whether post-incident rehabilitation is needed *(e.g. evaluate to determine whether seeding is necessary to prevent excessive erosion or the invasion of noxious weeds and to restore a native vegetative community.)*. If the evaluation shows that post-incident rehabilitation is necessary, a site-specific emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plan is developed by resource specialists following agency specific guidance and will be NEPA compliant.

2. Suppression Damage Rehabilitation - Incident commanders and resource advisors are responsible for implementing short-term actions to mitigate the effects of fire suppression

activities. The following action items will guide short-term rehabilitation of surface disturbing suppression impacts (including closing routes opened during fire suppression) prior to releasing fire crews and equipment following containment. These would be actions taken in addition to standard mop-up duties of extinguishing burning material along or near the control line and felling snags or moving logs so they won't roll downhill.

3. General Rehabilitation Action Items:

- Linear openings created by wildland fire suppression should be closed and rehabilitated in accordance with resource advisor guidance.
- Washed and weed-free equipment should be used in rehabilitation activities.
- Remove all trash, debris, temporary road signing and flagging.
- Flush cut suppression-created tree stumps down to 2-3" above ground level along recreational trails, around recreation areas, and within WSAs and ACECs. Cross-cut the top of all 8"+ diameter stumps to speed decay.
- Where fire lines cross or parallel streams, remove line construction debris from the channel and place debris sufficiently above the channel so it will not roll back down into the stream.
- Conduct a class III cultural resource inventory of all ground disturbing rehabilitation activities and use non-ground disturbing techniques within known or newly identified cultural site boundaries.
- Evaluate road systems for damage and report damage to appropriate NWCFMU staff person.
- Evaluate and rehabilitate helispots, camps and parking areas.

4. Rehabilitation Action Items for Hand Lines/Other Trails:

- Scatter limbs/deadfall/rocks (weathered side up) to obliterate evidence of fire line.
- Weed-free seeding should occur prior to pulling organic matter back over hand lines.
- Handlines should be seeded at rates specified for the particular area.
- Where a recreation foot trail was used for fire line, reconstruct the trail tread to 24 inches in width.
- Where fire lines cross recreational trails, discourage recreational use of fire lines by camouflaging with rocks/debris.
- Block off fire lines to motorized access with rocks, natural woody material and signs.
- Remove hazards from along recreational trails.

5. Rehabilitation Action Items for Dozer Lines:

- Rip and disturb soil to a depth of 6-12 inches.

- Pull fire line berms onto hand line and blend organic matter with undisturbed soil contours.
- Pull trees/limbs/rocks and other organic material back into line perpendicular to slope.
- Block off dozer lines to motorized access using boulders/natural large woody material/signs.
- Dozer lines that were constructed across slopes will need to be fully obliterated with slash.
- Weed-free seeding should occur after pulling organic matter back over dozer lines.

GENERAL WATERBAR SPACING	
Grade	Estimated Spacing
1 - 6%	300'
7 - 9%	200'
10-14%	150'
15-20%	90'
21-40%	50'
41% +	25'

6. <u>Rehabilitation Action Items for Water Bars</u>:

- Provide for drainage with water bars on constructed hand/dozer lines and impacted areas.
- Place water bars 20-40 degrees perpendicular to the fall line, where natural drainage occurs.
- Hand line water bars should be 8" deep.
- Water bars for dozer lines should be 12"+ deep and 18-24" high for the berm.
- If soil is loose, augment water bar with woody debris and/or rocks.
- Ensure that each water bar has a direct outlet and drains into a vegetation or rock filter.
- On slopes >30%, water bars should be installed perpendicular to the fall line and constructed as "cup trenches" rather than drainage features.
- Water bars on steeper slopes (> 50%) may be built from tree boles and should be alternated to opposite sides of the line.
- Water bar spacing and location should consider site-specific topography during installation.

7. <u>Rehabilitation Action Items to Reduce Sedimentation</u>:

- To reduce sedimentation, straw bale or log check dams are prescribed in areas where resource values are at risk.
- Specific sites where check dams should be considered include ephemeral and small intermittent channels areas where logs/branches created natural check dams and were burned out locations with less steep gradients that will naturally store large quantities of sediment and where there are natural sediment catch basins.

8. <u>Documentation</u> - Documentation requirements have been established by the resource and fire management staff and are identified in the normal year fire stabilization and rehabilitation plan.

They include identification of projects in the rangeland improvement project system (RIPS), annual work plan (AWP), management information system (MIS), national fire plan operations reporting system (NFPORS) and FACTS.

9. Monitoring - Short-term monitoring requirements include evaluation of treatment implementation and its initial effectiveness. Post-treatment monitoring may include vegetative transects or the establishment of permanent photo points depending on specific project objectives. Resource specialists and fire management staff with GIS specialist support conduct long term monitoring at the NWCFMU level.

4.3. A. MANAGEMENT OF PLANNED FUELS TREATMENTS

Fire is an essential ecological process in many ecosystems. Protecting lives, property, and natural resources does not mean eliminating fire from the environment. The use of fire to accomplish land and resource management objectives is referred to as prescriptive or prescribed fire and may be described as the deliberate application of fire to wildlands to achieve specific resource management objectives under predetermined conditions.

Prescribed fire as a fuel treatment or as a method of attaining other management objectives can reduce costs but there also exists a level of risk that must be accepted, based on the probability and the consequences of a fire exceeding its prescription parameters. It is fully recognized that escapes may occur from time to time, but proper planning and execution should keep these escapes a rarity.

Prescribed burning is a well-established practice utilized by public and private land managers. Often, multiple fire protection and resource management benefits are achieved concurrently. Natural resource managers use prescribed fires for many purposes including:

- Reduce accumulated vegetation
- Restore natural conditions
- Improve ecosystem health
- Maintain or restore healthy wildlife habitat
- Create barriers for protecting high-value areas such as timber investments, private property or administrative sites
- Control the spread of noxious weeds
- Increase water availability by eliminating encroaching plants
- Stimulate grass/ forb growth in areas to decrease erosion potential
- Enhance soil ph and increase soil nutrients

4.3. A.1. PLANNING AND DOCUMENTATION

Each prescribed burn must be developed in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures. The results of the environmental analysis, including alternatives to the proposed action, anticipated environmental effects, and mitigation measures will be documented

in an Environmental Assessment (EA), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS. The decision to burn must be documented in a decision memorandum (DM), decision notice (DN), or record of decision (ROD).

The NWCFMU attempts to do fuels project planning approximately one and half years ahead of implementation. All fuel treatment projects, including prescribed burns, are displayed in the National Fire Plan Operating and Reporting System Personnel training needs are assessed annually to facilitate the fuels program.

a. Summary of the Fuels Program

1. Planning and Analysis - The NWCFMU prescribed fire program is undertaken on an interagency basis to treat natural and unnatural fuel accumulations to meet resource management objectives as outlined in land use plans. Treatments have traditionally included wildlife habitat enhancement, site preparation for artificial and natural regeneration, range habitat improvement and hazardous fuels reduction.

The decision to use prescribed fire must come from current approved land use documents for the area in which the burn is located. Project level analysis, through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and other state and federal regulatory compliance processes, document the purpose and need for treatment. This analysis also identifies the goals and objectives that the prescribed fire treatment is intended to achieve.

In an effort to be more cost effective, project analysis may be done for multi-year treatments on the scale of several thousand acres. Similarly, treatments are planned using a burn unit concept on some sub-units, which results in additional flexibility in project implementation taking advantage of favorable sites and seasonal windows for treatment.

The NWCFMU develops out-year program planning and budgeting information for prescribed fire treatments in accordance with land use plans. The development of treatment proposals is typically accomplished one to three years in advance of planned treatments. Field reconnaissance and interdisciplinary analysis are completed one to two years in advance of project implementation.

2. Primary Burn Windows - The primary burn windows for NWCFMU occur in the spring. Burning is also accomplished in the summer and fall. Pile burns are planned and implemented during the winter when other burning opportunities are not available.

3. Development of Burn Plans - All units within the NWCFMU will follow the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide and any agency specific guidance and requirements for the development of burn plans and implementation of projects. Plans that involve two or more agencies will be prepared using the most restrictive requirements of the involved agencies.

Burn plans are developed at the zone level by qualified fire management staff or subordinates for developmental training opportunities. Detail in the prescribed burn plan, and mentoring needs of preparers, may vary with type and complexity of the plan.

4. Review of Burn Plans - At a minimum, burn plans will receive a technical review by qualified individuals and approval by the appropriate agency administrator. Depending on the involved agency(s) requirements, other signatures and reviews may be needed. These could include NWCFMU FMO or higher level FMO, unit operations specialist, or staff specialists. At least one burn plan per year will be reviewed by the State Office or other off unit personnel.

5. Approval of Burn Plans - Each prescribed burn plan requires approval by the appropriate agency administrator. Upon approval of the prescribed burn plan, the execution, including mop up, must follow that plan. The approving agency administrator must authorize any changes to the approved burn plan.

6. Documentation Requirements - Documentation requirements relative to burn plan preparation have been established by the NWCFMU fire management staff. All prescribed fires are documented with the following information:

- Prescribed fire plan
- Map of project area and surrounding area
- Monitoring data, including weather, fire behavior, and fire effects observations
- Weather forecasts, spot, short and long-term
- Smoke permit and dispersal information

7. Reporting Requirements - Project level reporting and pre-burn notification requirements have been established for the agency NWCFMU staff group. Separate reporting requirements also include notifications to and submittal and annual reporting requirements for smoke emissions to the Colorado Department of Health, Air Quality Control Division. Accomplishments will be reported in NFPORS within five days of project completion.

8. Exceeding Existing Prescribed Fire Plan - Any prescribed fire that exceeds the designated project area and cannot be contained within the project area by the end of the next burning period will be declared an escaped fire. A prescribed fire can be converted to a wildfire for reasons other than an escape (ie budget, political). Following an escaped fire declaration, WFDSS documentation will be completed and approved by the responsible agency administrator. This process is the same as previously described for wildfires that escape initial attack.

9. Prescribed Fire Project Critiques – After Action Review's will be conducted at the conclusion of all prescribed fire projects (or daily) and include all involved on-site personnel. Other personnel involved with the project may participate in the AAR(s) as requested, or desired. The burn boss or appropriate Zone FMO will be responsible for conducting and documenting the AAR(s). Formal project reviews are not required except in the case of an escaped fire.

10. Preseason Activities - Equipment preparation, permits and approvals, workshops and public contacts, newsletters, etc. is the responsibility of each agency in the NWCFMU. Cooperative and coordinated efforts and the activities listed above will be undertaken whenever feasible.

11. Collaborative Processes in Planning - Fire management personnel from the NWCFMU will collaborate and coordinate planning of prescribed fire treatments. This planning effort will be to

maximize effectiveness of treatments in meeting resource management and hazard fuel treatment objectives across the NWCFMU. When possible, burn plan preparation, funding and implementation of projects will be conducted as a cooperative interagency effort to limit duplication of work and processes.

12. Priority Setting - Future project workloads are maintained in the individual agency's three-year action plans. Priorities for implementation are set by each individual office for their area of responsibility. Overall unit prescribed burn priorities are typically established by the Unit FMO in consultation with the fuels specialists and line officers.

13. Level of Vegetation Treatments - When considering vegetation management goals along with anticipated funding, personnel, planning priorities and climatic conditions; the reasonable foreseeable vegetation treatment level (e.g. level of fuel treatment and amount of prescribed fire) for the NWCFMU is generally assumed to be no more than 10% of the resource area over a 10-year period.

14. General Vegetation Treatment Guidelines - The following guidelines will be considered in site-specific projects. Project-level environmental analyses may determine the need for additional considerations.

- Pile burning of mechanically cleared vegetation/debris is acceptable in FMU A.
- Equipment used in vegetation treatments should be washed and weed-free before arriving onsite.
- Except where specific treatments are designed to control or manage vegetation within riparian areas, treatments will be designed to avoid riparian areas. Adequate buffer strips around watercourses and drainages may be necessary to protect riparian areas. The extent of the buffer strip depends on a number of factors such as the slope, the type of treatment, acres treated, current vegetation condition, etc., and will be determined through a site-specific environmental analysis.
- Vegetation treatments conducted on uplands adjacent to riparian areas will be designed and conducted in a manner that limits potential for soil erosion and sedimentation and increases vegetative ground cover. This includes riparian restoration work, and salt cedar removal, intended to improve habitats. Where erosion potential is high, establish baseline water quality data prior to conducting vegetation treatments and conduct water quality studies until the site is re-vegetated and soils are stabilized to determine impacts of vegetation treatments on water quality.
- Consider visual qualities in visual resource management (VRM) class II and I areas where the classification goal is to preserve the landscape character. Landscape modifications should replicate a natural shape, form, color and texture found in the surrounding area.
- To minimize large losses of key big game winter habitat on public lands, limit vegetation changes within localized severe big game winter ranges to 10% of the range per year over a 10-year period.

- Prescriptive treatments with the potential to disrupt visitors should avoid high use areas and occur outside of high use seasons, such as the fall big game rifle hunting seasons.
- Consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is mandatory if there is the possibility that a listed species maybe present within a project treatment area.

b. Numbers and Kinds of Qualified Personnel Necessary to Plan and Execute the Prescribed Fire Program

Qualified personnel will be used in all phases of the prescribed fire program. The qualifications may be found in each agency's policy and guidance. If agency specific differences in qualifications exist, all agencies in the NWCFMU will accept other agencies qualifications.

Qualified personnel required to plan and execute the prescribed fire program are largely involved in the NWCFMU interagency fire management program. At the BLM field office level, a Fuels Specialist is responsible for project level planning with assistance from the Zone FMO and other fire staff. The Dinosaur National Monument FMO and Fuels Specialist are responsible for project planning and implementation within the national monument. Browns Park NWR fire and resource staff are responsible for project planning and implementation within the refuges. NWCFMU fire and fuels personnel are shared throughout the unit for project implementation.

An interagency list of individuals qualified in key prescribed fire positions can be found at the CIDC. All personnel participating on a prescribed fire will be qualified in the positions they are assigned in accordance with NWCG standards for prescribed fire operations.

c. Monitoring Program Effectiveness in Meeting Objectives

General resource objectives are found in the agency RMPs. Specific resource objectives are identified in project burn plans. The burn plans will identify the appropriate monitoring protocols, both short and long term, as well as the individual(s) responsible for conducting, recording and assessing the data obtained. The monitoring protocols will vary depending on the depth and nature of the identified resource objectives.

d. Fuel Treatment Map - Past Accomplishments and Proposed Treatments

Past and planned treatment project areas maps are maintained in a GIS database at the NWCFMU office.

4.3.A.2. AIR QUALITY AND SMOKE MANAGEMENT

a. Pertinent Air Quality Issues

As previously noted, implementing this plan could result in an overall increase of acres burned per year, which could have additional impacts on air quality. Prescribed and wildland fires are a potentially significant source of air pollution because fire is a natural combustion process that releases air pollutant emissions. The amount of emissions depends on the size and intensity of the fire, which is determined by meteorological conditions, the fuel type and moisture content, and the available fuel loading. Dry fuels (such as dead and down or dry vegetation) are

consumed first in the beginning stages of burning. As a fire progresses, green/live vegetation is dried through heat convection and radiation, then consumed as well. These varying combustion stages produce differing amounts of emissions because the efficiency of the combustion process in these fuels determines how much of what type of emissions are produced. Fuels consumed in the flaming front tend to have more complete and efficient combustion and thus emit fewer pollutants than fuels consumed in the smoldering stage.

These potential impacts were considered in developing this FMP, and mitigation measures have been built into the plan to offset potential negative impacts from smoke pollution. For one, air quality is a factor that must be considered in the prescriptive criteria (Go/No Go Checklist) to determine the viability of implementing a prescribed fire or fire use project. If the established federal and state standards for air quality cannot be met or mitigated in an acceptable manner, the project will not be implemented until conditions change. Secondly, even when these standards are met, the plan also provides a list of smoke management techniques to mitigate potential impacts, which includes monitoring the amount of emissions and the direction of the smoke dispersal. NWCFMU has the Colorado special status air quality area map, which identifies class 1 and II air sheds and maintenance areas. Prescribed fire projects will comply with the more stringent regulations in these areas. Finally, the land is also designed to accommodate areas where fire is not desired and other types of fuels treatments need to be used. Therefore, additional areas where concerns with air quality standards would require the use of alternative fuels treatments are identified in this plan. Alternatives, such as chemical treatments and mechanical treatments, including brush beating, and thinning are utilized extensively throughout the planning area.

It is important to note, too, that suppressing all wildland fires with no preventative fuels treatments could improve air quality in the short-term by eliminating even temporary smoke production as quickly as possible. However, preventing periodic fires in the ecosystem has already contributed to unacceptable fuel loadings in certain parts of the planning area, which has increased the risk of larger, more intense wildland fires burning for longer periods. These uncontrolled wildland fires typically cause greater air pollutant emission levels. Thus, they ultimately result in more extreme and widespread air quality impacts. This FMP provides the greatest management flexibility to control smoke production and impacts in smoke-sensitive and high visibility areas. This fire management approach has considered many feasible and economically reasonable methods to minimize smoke emissions in balance with the need to respond to wildland fire and sustain ecosystems, and by such, will conform to the State standard with respect to all emissions. This plan will help the State attain and maintain national ambient air quality standards and achieve Federal and State visibility goals.

Identification of smoke sensitive areas, class I airsheds and proposed project mitigation actions are identified in the modeling and project permit submittal forwarded to the Colorado Department of Health and Environment.

b. Mitigation Measures to Adverse Smoke Events

1. Location of Class I Air Sheds and Clean Air Corridors - Two classes-I airsheds exist within the NWCFMU: The Mount Zirkel and Flat Top wilderness areas. A regional air quality and haze study is currently being conducted in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness.

2. Description of Pre-Identified Smoke Sensitive Areas - Air quality across the NWCFMU is generally good. Steamboat Springs, located along the western slope of the continental divide and in close proximity to the Routt National Forest, was considered a non-attainment area and has since been upgraded to a maintenance area in the state implementation plan.

The following are considered sensitive to the impacts of smoke:

- Schools
- Health care facilities
- Federal and state highways
- Communities/subdivisions

3. Local and Regional Smoke Management Restrictions and Procedures - The Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Air Pollution Control Division reviews and approves a smoke permit for each management ignition project prior to implementation. Annual reports on acres treated are submitted for upward reporting at the State level.

Permits must be obtained from the State DEQ for all prescribed burn projects. Lists of proposed projects must be submitted to the state by February 1 of each year. Permits are issued by March 1st. Prior day approval for each burn is required the day before planned ignition from the State.

Consultation and approval by the State of Colorado is a continuing process, as described below. Management will cooperate with other land managers and the State of Colorado to minimize air quality impacts from smoke on local communities and individuals, including the following specific measures:

- When preparing site-specific burn plans, the agencies will obtain all necessary air pollutant emission permits and approvals from the State of Colorado prior to initiating a prescribed fire. The agencies will follow and implement the terms of the interagency Colorado Smoke Management Plan and MOU as well as any site-specific open burning permit.

- The Burn Permit will utilize potential air quality impacts developed by the Air Pollution Control Division (APCD)

- The agencies will apply management techniques to minimize smoke production and to enhance dispersion, including burning under optimum weather conditions, expanding the burning season, using backing fires where applicable, burning small blocks, expediting mop-up, etc. These techniques are described in the Prescribed Fire Smoke Management Guide, published by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NFES No. 1279, PMS 420-2; 2001).

- Once a prescribed fire is initiated, the agencies will monitor weather and the burning and smoke dispersion conditions to assure air quality impacts remain within prescribed smoke management levels. If monitoring indicates conditions are no longer within prescription, managers will declare the fire an unwanted wildland fire, and initiate the appropriate management response.

- The agencies will establish and maintain close communications with State and local agencies regarding the status of prescribed fire projects and wildfires. They will notify concerned smoke-sensitive organizations (e.g.; hospitals, schools, retirement centers, or other areas identified on the attached special status air quality area map) of intentions and conditions, both prior to and during prescribed fire activities.

- The agencies will ensure that the general public is informed of the status of prescribed burns, including smoke management contingencies, through the local press, radio and television.

The field personnel will maintain communications with the CIDC. This office will act as a clearinghouse, providing and maintaining daily information on burning projects throughout the region.

4. Measures to Prevent or Mitigate Adverse Smoke Events - Project planning addresses and quantifies potential levels of emissions incurred through project implementation. The current acceptable smoke model used is SASEM (Simple Approach Smoke Emission Model). The original intent of SASEM was for it to be used as a screening model for exceedance and visibility impairment. As more sophisticated models become available, they will be used for planning purposes within this FMP.

When NWCFMU manages wildland fires for resource benefit and conducts prescribed fires, areas affected by the smoke must still meet air quality standards to protect public health. Despite the FMP's anticipated increases in prescriptive fire, clean air and public health goals can be met through careful planning and cooperation among land managers, air quality regulators and local communities.

The key to successfully balancing prescriptive fire and meeting air quality standards is a smoke management program. The FMP allows proactive management flexibility to control smoke production and impacts in smoke-sensitive areas. In addition, mitigation measures have been built into the FMP to reduce potential negative impacts from smoke pollution. First and foremost, air quality is considered in the prescriptive criteria of the Go/No Go Checklist to determine the viability of implementing a prescriptive fire treatment. If the established federal and state standards for air quality cannot be met or mitigated in an acceptable manner, the project will not be implemented until conditions change. The Go/No Go Checklist is evaluated on a daily basis.

Secondly, even when these standards are met, the FMP also identifies smoke management techniques and procedures to mitigate the potential impacts of smoke. Application of these techniques will minimize air quality impacts (seeing, smelling, breathing). The techniques are

described in the Prescribed Fire Smoke Management Guide, published by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NFES No. 1279, PMS 420-1; 1985).

Best management practices from the Interagency Smoke Management Guide are incorporated into individual prescribed burn plans. Examples of smoke management techniques and procedures include:

- Burn when conditions are good for rapid smoke dispersion.
- Burn under favorable moisture conditions.
- Use backing fires when applicable.
- Burn in small blocks when appropriate.
- Mop-up.
- Notify nearby residents and adjacent landowners.

5. Authorization to Burn

- Consultation and approval by the State of Colorado is a continuing process. Interagency fire managers will cooperate with other land managers and the State of Colorado to minimize air quality impacts from smoke. NWCFMU will obtain all necessary air pollutant emission permits and approvals from the State of Colorado prior to initiating a prescriptive fire. The agency will follow and implement the terms of the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission Regulation No. 9 and the Interagency Colorado Smoke Management Plan and MOU as well as any site specific open burning permit.

6. Actions to Minimize Emissions and Enhance Dispersion

- Each prescriptive fire has unique characteristics, but in general, smoke impacts can be greatly minimized by burning during weather conditions that provide optimal dispersion and wind conditions for the types of materials being burned.
- Smoke impacts minimized by limiting the amount of materials and acreage burned at one time.
- Whenever feasible and necessary, mechanical thinning (such as selective timber thinning, pruning or cutting of small trees) used as a pretreatment to prescriptive burning.
- Burning with higher intensities when possible provides for more convection and greater dispersion of smoke.

7. Modeling

- Interagency fire managers assess potential air quality impacts through the use of smoke dispersion modeling techniques (e.g.; SASEM, etc.) to predict particulate matter emissions, smoke plume characteristics, exposure and visibility impacts.

8. Monitoring

- Personnel stationed along roadways to visually monitor for smoke impacts and warn motorists of adverse conditions.

- The field personnel maintain communications with the dispatch office. The CDIC acts as a clearinghouse, providing and maintaining daily information on burning projects throughout the region.
- Particulate monitors used as a monitoring tool at sensitive receptors.

9. Public Notification and Awareness

- Interagency fire managers inform the general public of the status of wildland fires, prescribed burns and smoke through local press, radio and television.
- Interagency fire managers establish and maintain close communications with State and local agencies regarding the status of prescriptive fire treatments and wildland fires. When necessary managers notify concerned smoke-sensitive organizations (i.e. hospitals, schools, retirement centers) of management intentions and burning conditions.
- Implementing fire hazard awareness and mitigation programs for the public.

10. Air Quality and Smoke Management Personnel - Unit and regional air quality specialist are available to assist in modeling projected emissions or monitoring emissions during project implementation.

4.3.A.3. NON-FIRE FUEL TREATMENTS

In general non-fire fuel treatments within the NWCFMU accomplish the first step in a multi-step process of moving the treatment unit toward the ultimate goal of condition class 1 therefore all non-fire fuel treatments would have a goal of moving the treatment unit from condition class 3 to condition class 2 with subsequent non-fire and/or prescribed fire treatments completing the movement to condition class 1.

In addition to prescribed fire, the NWCFMU anticipates using; manual, mechanical, chemical and/or biological methods to treat vegetation. Not all treatments are suitable for all vegetation types. Treatments will vary depending on factors including; protection priorities, condition of the vegetation, vegetation management goals, proximity to development, time of year and various environmental circumstances. Often several types of treatments may be used in combination. For example, mechanical treatments may be used to create fuel breaks before a prescribed fire.

All fuel treatment projects, including mechanical treatments, are displayed in the National Fire Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) and are available through this database to any agency official and the general public via spatial data, informational data and project type.

Following is a description of the three types of non-fire fuels treatments that may be utilized in the NWCFMU:

A. Manual - Non-powered hand tools and powered tools, including chain saws and motorized brushcutters, are used to cut, clear, thin or prune herbaceous and woody vegetation. Hand tools include axes, brushhooks, hoes, and hand clippers.

B. Mechanical - Emphasis on mechanical treatments of fuels has increased recently to facilitate treatments in the wildland/ urban interface. Mechanical methods include thinning and piling, crushing, cutting, chipping, lopping, cutting and chaining. Rubber-tired and treaded heavy equipment outfitted with blades or mowing attachments are most commonly used for mechanical treatments. Mechanical treatments will be implemented by site specific analysis and will work reduce fuel loadings for various reasons including, reduce the risk of prescribed fire escapes, hazardous fuel reduction and providing ecological restoration work where prescribed fire may not be feasible.

Annual programs of work, including all necessary environmental documentation (NEPA) required to implement mechanical and other treatments will be consistent with each agencies land management plan. The different types of mechanical reduction techniques are listed and described below:

Table 12: Mechanical Fuel Treatment Definitions

Action	Implementation Description
Thinning	Thinning reduces stand density by removing stems in the understory, mid-story and overstory. Once thinning is accomplished, the slash may be treated in several ways, including piling the material so it can be burned. Piles will be burned in the fall and winter season and potentially during the summer if conditions become suitable. The actual piling of the material may be accomplished by hand or machine piled. Equipment such as dozers and small tractors will haul the material to piles. Slash may also pushed or dragged into windrows. Some slash may be "rough-piled" or "jackpot piled" where heavier concentrations of fuel are left where they fell and burned on site. Material that is large enough to be of commercial value, usually > 6" may be removed to a landing using a rubber-tire skidder, or tracked vehicle. Both rubber-tire skidders and tracked skidders are used**.**
Crushing	Crushing involves dragging a large drum with spokes or spikes protruding over the vegetation, effectively breaking the fuel into smaller pieces.
Chipping	Chipping is a process where slash is forced through a chipping machine, reducing the larger pieces of slash to small chips that are left on site to naturally decompose. Tractors with attached discs, like the Hydroax, are also used to remove unwanted vegetation. Machines can either partially or totally clear a site.
Lopping	Lopping is where large cutting tools are attached to a "Bobcat" type tractor and trees are cut off at ground level. The trees can be left to lay where they fall, assisting in soil retention or piled and burned.
Chaining	Dozers can drag cable or chain systems to remove vegetation.

C. Chemical - Herbicides may be used to control competing and unwanted vegetation. These chemicals kill plants by disrupting biochemical growth processes. Herbicides are usually

applied as liquids mixed with water or oil carriers. Some herbicides are applied in solid form, usually as granules placed on the soil surface to be absorbed by plant roots.

Four methods of applying herbicides may be considered:

- Aerial application
- Mechanical equipment, truck or ATV mounted sprayers
- Backpack equipment, generally a pressurized container
- Hand application, painting cut surfaces or application of granular herbicides to the soil

D. <u>Biological</u> - Prolonged or forced grazing of cattle, sheep or goats may be used to control both noxious weeds and the composition or amount of vegetation. This differs from the typical grazing program in that vegetation control, rather than animal weight gain or forage utilization, is the primary objective.

Monitoring Requirements - Monitoring is conducted to determine whether the agency's planned actions were implemented as planned (implementation monitoring), whether the agency's actions were effective in reaching desired goals and objectives (effectiveness monitoring), and whether the predicted cause-and-effect relationship of management activities is valid (validation monitoring). Monitoring requirements are developed in response to resource management and project objectives from interdisciplinary input, but at a minimum implementation monitoring will be conducted on every treatment.

4.4. A FIRE PREVENTION, MITIGATION AND EDUCATION

To have an effective fire prevention, mitigation and education program it is essential that the Fire Mangement Unit first identify the values, risks, and hazards within the unit. The following is an overview of the Hazard, Risk, and Values Analysis combined with Wildfire Occurrence and Problem Analysis covering the NWCFMU

1. *Values:*
    - The western half of the north and south zones are predominately rural in nature with significantly large contiguous blocks of public lands. Approximately 50% of the public lands have been assigned "C" or "D" classification under the FMP's for those administrative units (Little Snake and White River Field Offices, and Dinosaur National Monument). Moderate to high value components do exist adjacent to private in-holdings, oil and gas development, coal mine, cultural sites, critical winter range, cutthroat trout habitat, stands of Douglas fir and mature cottonwood riparian. Urban and rural interface fires have occurred around Maybell, Meeker, Sunbeam, Greystone, Rangely, and Dinosaur.

    - The eastern half of the north and south zones are increasingly developed west to east from Maybell to Steamboat Springs. The intermixed land ownership is approximately 50% BLM and 30% private between Maybell and Craig, becoming mostly private continuing on to Steamboat Springs. High value areas include

public/private interface, critical wildlife winter range, oil and gas development, and open pit coal mines.

- The Routt and east zones have winter range, timber, and critical sage grouse habitat, with intermixed land ownership issues, 60% public (USFS and BLM) with 40% private. Urban expansion is on the rise especially in east Grand County with multi-million dollar residences being constructed adjacent to public land.

2. *Risk:*
   - The highest wildfire occurrence on the NWCFMU takes place in the western half of the north and south zones with the majority of the fires and acres burned. Lightning accounts for 88% of all starts and approximately half of the acres. Illegal use of fire with the apparent purpose of increasing livestock forage has historically been a problem in the western half of the north and south zones. The Routt and east zones averages 20 fires per year, however the fire environment is changing due to the Routt/Divide blow down, resulting in a spruce bark beetle epidemic. Approximately 40% of the fires are human caused in this zone. Careless smoking, vehicle exhaust, escaped agricultural burning and unattended campfires account for the majority of the human caused starts. Equipment usage starts a few fires as well.

   - Efforts to recover fire loss and suppression expenses have not been successful due to limited funding and availability of law enforcement personnel trained in fire cause and investigation, the large number of dispersed recreation sites and insufficient evidence to support conviction.

3. *Hazard:*
   - The hazard component varies across the Unit from very low to very high. Moderate to high hazard areas include: mature pinyon stands in the Piceance Basin, Douglas Pass, Greystone, Bear Valley, and the Skull Creek Rim; also mature stands of conifer exhibiting high risk to bark beetles on the Routt and east zones. Mature stands of oak brush inhabit much of the steeper slopes above 6,500'. Decadent stands of continuous bitterbrush/sage are common to the Great Divide. Bug killed Douglas fir also contributes to high hazard areas.

   - Cheat grass has significantly increased from historically inhabiting scattered pockets to becoming a dominant fine fuel component intermixed with sagebrush and pinon/juniper stands. Areas of large blocks of infestation include the Brown's Park, Greystone, Rangely Basin, and Piceance Basin.

   - High risk, high hazard, and high value areas include: Steamboat Springs and Meeker interface, Douglas Mountain, Greystone, Dragon Road oil fields, Central Piceance, Elk River, Steamboat Lake, Stagecoach/Morrison Creek and Catamount. Areas of high hazard, high value with low to moderate risk are: Upper White River, Breeze Basin, Wilderness Ranch, Great Divide, Winter

Park/Granby, Grand Lake, Hot Sulphur Springs, eastern Grand County, Kremmling, timber stands designated for management purposes, and motorized trail corridors.

4. *Mitigation and Education:*

- Due to the high percentage of lightning caused fires, prevention/mitigation activities place a strong emphasis on hazard fuels reduction projects. Current year target for hazard fuel reduction is 10,000 acres with incremental increases planned over the next 5 years.

- NWCFMU supports an ongoing communication and education program that relates the role of natural fire in the ecosystem and related adaptations in fire management and fire response to the general public.

- To maintain public awareness of the need to prevent wildfires, planned mitigation for human-caused fires include press releases, school programs, Smokey Bear Program, public outreach through meetings and visitor centers. Another important part of the prevention/education program is in developed recreation areas through signing of information on fire danger and hazards (e.g." No fireworks signs in campgrounds posted around July 4th).

- An integrated approach to community based fire planning, mitigation, and public interaction is used across the NWCFMU in keeping with the national fire plan.

5. *Strategies:*

- Appropriated funding is spent on planning and implementation of fuel hazard reduction projects for the purpose of reducing risk to fire fighters, high value resources, and to lower overall suppression costs. An aggressive hazard reduction program is part of a strategy to reclassify category "B" areas to "C" or "D" and move category "C" areas to "D" classification.

- Labor costs are identified in NFMS for the BLM ranger and Forest Protection Officers programs for public, users, and cooperator education as well as compliance, enforcement, and cost recovery from illegal fire use.

6. *Social and Political Concerns*:

- The NWCFMU is a diverse corner of the state in regard to attitudes and understanding of fire's role in the ecosystem. Large portions of the public are ranchers who utilize and understand the benefit of fire management on the land. The non-ranching public range from those who understand and accept fire's role to those who are opposed to any level of fire in their immediate area. There are also small pockets of anti-government supporters who oppose any type of federal or state involvement.

- The main concerns of the public revolve around smoke issues, visual impacts, safety, economics, and health concerns. These concerns will be addressed on an incident-by-incident basis and may include public meetings, press releases, individual contacts and mitigation measures.

4.4. B. SPECIAL ORDERS AND CONCERNS:

The purpose of special orders, restrictions and closures is to reduce the risk of human-caused fire during periods of extended high fire danger.

- Coordination - All restrictions and closures are coordinated with local cooperators, recommended by the agency FMOs, and approved by the appropriate agency administrators.
- Authority - Agency administrators have the authority to issue restrictions and closures on public lands. The employees who are responsible for implementation and enforcement of the restrictions will be contacted through their supervisor to ensure that proposed restrictions are coordinated across the NWCFMU as appropriate.

The Craig Interagency Dispatch Fire Restriction Plan is located in Appendix D.

1. Stage I, Stage II Restrictions and Stage III Closure - Each agency is responsible to prepare written fire restriction orders under its jurisdiction. To establish consistency, reduce confusion and standardize restrictions, the following criteria will be used in all restriction documents:

2. Stage I Restrictions: The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, coal or wood burning stove, any type of charcoal fueled broiler or open fire of any type in undeveloped areas.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, in a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable vegetation.
- Using explosive material: (i.e.: fireworks, blasting caps or any incendiary device which may result in the ignition of flammable material.).
- Welding, or operating acetylene or other similar torch with open flame.
- Operating or using any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order meeting either: Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Standard 5100-1a; or Appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335 (b) and J350 (a).

Possible Exemptions

- Persons with a written permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- Fires in constructed, permanent fire pits or fire grates within developed recreation sites.

- Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- Mechanical stoves and appliances fueled by bottled or liquid gas, which allow the operator to control or extinguish the flame with a valve, are permitted provided that Underwriters Laboratory Inc. approves such devices.
- Owners or lessees of land in the restricted area.
- Residents in the restricted area.

3. Stage II Restrictions: The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, coal or wood burning stove, any type of charcoal fueled broiler or open fire of any type.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
- Using explosive material: (i.e.: fireworks, blasting caps or any incendiary device which may result in the ignition of flammable material.).
- Welding, or operating acetylene or other similar torch with open flame.
- Operating or using any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained and in effective working order meeting either: Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Standard 5100-1a; or Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice J335 (b) and J350 (a).
- Operating a chainsaw without a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than eight-ounce capacity by weight, and one size 0 or larger round pointed shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches. The extinguisher shall be with the chainsaw operator. The shovel may be kept with the fueling supplies but readily available.

Other possible restricted acts under Stage II:

- Operating a motorized vehicle off designated roads and trails.
- Operating a chainsaw outside the hours of 5:00 am and 11:00 am.
- Overnight camping limited to listed campgrounds and recreation sites. (An attachment of designated sites would be included).

Possible Exemptions

- Persons with a written permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- Mechanical stoves and appliances fueled by bottled or liquid gas which allow the operator to control and extinguish the flame with a valve are permitted provided that Underwriters Laboratory Inc approves such devices.
- Owners or lessees of land in the restricted area.
- Residents in the restricted area.

4. Stage III Closure: Before the fire season, the NWCFMU FMOs will review the evaluation guidelines and determine threshold levels that substantiate the need for closures. Examples include:

- Potential loss of life due to explosive fire conditions.
- Potential for extreme or blowup fire behavior.
- Stage I or State II restrictions are not effective in reducing the number of human caused fires.
- Resources across the geographic area are at a critical shortage level.
- Proximity to substantial population centers.
- The extent of wildland-urban interface.

4.4. C. INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS AND FIRE PRECAUTIONS

- **Structures and Improvements** – Zone fire management staff and/or zone managers or their appointed representatives make inspections of zone facilities periodically. Measures to reduce the risks of and hazards from wildfire are to be taken immediately whenever problems are noted.

- **Rights of-Way** - Rights-of-way in the form of roads and power lines must be periodically reviewed to minimize the potential for fire starts. This is an integral part of the special use inspection process. Inspections and removal of hazardous vegetation is required.

- **Roads** - Public roads are numerous, offer many attractions, and are the primary means of public access into and through NWCFMU. Fuel loading along major roads is treated in accord with Land and Resource Management Plan direction.

- **Industrial Operations (Timber and Special Use Operations**) – Compliance inspections are completed in accordance with contract requirements or per manual direction in the case of special use permits. Inspections are for the protection of the public land resources and the operators. Agency representatives enforce all requirements of the contract related to fire prevention precautionary measures.

- **Spark Arresters and Equipment** - All internal combustion engines that operate on the NWCFMU must have properly working spark arresters. Agency personnel conduct spark arrester inspections.

- **Community Education** - The NWCFMU works to protect communities through prescribed fire and fuel reduction efforts around communities, and working to ensure adequate federal funding for these efforts. The NWCFMU helps to provide opportunities for education, training, and participation in fuel reduction projects for home and property owners, county fire districts and cooperating agencies.

- **Assistance Programs** - Recognizing that fire risk mitigation around communities needs to be a collaborative effort between agencies and local citizens, the NWCFMU works in the wildland-urban interface to reduce fuel loads on public

lands near communities. These efforts are done cooperatively with cooperating agencies, county fire districts, Federal, State and local governments.

4.4. D. COMMUNITY FIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITHIN THE NWCFMU

The NWCFMU works with fire protection districts/fire departments in five counties (Jackson, Routt, Grand, Moffat, Rio Blanco). The priority workload in working with the fire protection districts includes reducing the risk to the wildland urban interface, mutual wildland fire assistance, providing training and providing wildland firefighting equipment. NWCFMU treats all of these counties as equals from the standpoint of community protection and assistance.

Since the National Fire Plan was initiated in 2000, all fire departments have and continue to receive standardized wildland firefighter training, full PPE, other essential safety gear including radios and firefighting equipment such as hand tools, water handling equipment and technical support such as GPS units and computers.

In the future, with the complex interagency dispatching and essential mutual aid in northwest Colorado, on-going training and cooperation is essential. Rural fire assistance money will be needed to provide training, PPE, technical support and firefighting equipment and supplies. Many of the fire districts are small with a corresponding tax base. Without federal assistance, these fire districts would not be able to respond to a wildland fire and meet basic national wildland firefighting standards

CHAPTER 5 MONITORING AND EVALUATIONS

5.1. A FIRE BEHAVIOR AND FIRE EFFECTS MONITORING:

The goal of the monitoring program is to provide fire and resource managers the information necessary to conduct fire management activities. Some uses of this information include:

- Make decisions regarding management strategy and tactics for all ignitions
- Compare actual prescribed fire effects with stated burn objectives
- Validate/refine current management prescriptions
- Assess the efficacy of management techniques
- Suggest improvements or alternatives to existing management techniques
- Identify concerns which require further research
- Guide future decisions pertaining to fire management

Monitoring related to wildland fire or fire-related projects falls under the general monitoring and evaluation guidelines outlined in the various agencies resource management plans as previously listed. Site specific monitoring needs are identified in analysis for individual fire related projects.

Fire behavior monitoring is done to help make planning and immediate decisions, which promote firefighter safety and effective use of existing resources.

Fire effects monitoring may be divided into long and short-term monitoring. Short-term monitoring will provide nearly immediate information regarding fire effects, serving as a feedback mechanism to assess and evaluate the degree to which fire management objectives are being achieved. Long-term monitoring will track changes in overall resource conditions over one or more complete fire cycles, as they are currently understood.

5.1. B. SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING OBJECTIVES

Short-term monitoring requirements include pre-burn fuel moisture sampling conducted by preparedness staff members or designated fuels crewmembers. Pre-burn monitoring may include vegetative transects or establishing permanent photo points depending on the specific project objectives. Post-burn monitoring conducted by fire management staff or resource specialists includes similar activities as required by the project monitoring plan.

Resource specialists and fire management staff with GIS specialist support conduct long term monitoring at the NWCFMU level.

5.1. C PROCEDURES

Fire behavior monitoring will follow established protocols and procedures identified in NWCG training classes. Fire effects monitoring, both short and long term, will vary depending on criteria established by the resource management plan. Monitoring methods may entail the establishment of photo points, vegetation transects, plots or other scientific methods, which will assess the primary and secondary effects of either wildland or prescribed fire.

5.1. D TIME FRAMES

Fire behavior monitoring will occur at the time of the fire. Fire effects monitoring will occur starting immediately following the fire and may continue years later depending on the design and objectives of the monitoring project design.

5.1. E RESPONSIBILITIES

Fire behavior monitoring is generally the responsibility of the incident commander or the burn boss of the incident. Monitoring related to fire effects is the responsibility of the district/unit and may be conducted by either/or fire management or resource management personnel.

5.1. F REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING

Reporting requirements for fire behavior monitoring are fairly uniform and concise in light of their immediate relevance. Short and long-term reporting requirements vary widely depending on their purpose and the design of the monitoring protocols and procedures.

5.1. G EVALUATING FMP IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENT OF FIRE RELATED GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Monitoring and evaluating of the fire program will occur to determine if the program and associated projects are meeting the various resource plans directions and to determine if the costs of implementing the fire program and management effects are occurring as predicted.

The BLM has an annual review process and checklist to meet FMP monitoring requirements. Each year the unit and zone FMO's meet with the respective Field Office Personal to review and update the current Fire Management Plan. This usually happens in the winter and/or spring.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: FIRE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES TABLES

FIRE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES TABLES LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE & BROWNS PARK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Fire Management Strategies
The WRFO FMP guidance for fire suppression is to develop an Appropriate Management Response (AMR) plan that recognizes fire as a natural part of the range and forest ecosystem. AMR strategies would be tailored to address areas of significant constraints including Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), critical habitat for T&E species, areas of soil instability, cultural resources, and areas of other critical resource constraints.

Suppression Strategy: Under the concept of Appropriate Management Response (AMR) the range of responses available to implement protection objectives for unplanned ignitions are:

Control - Direct perimeter control and extinguishment
Containment - Fire spread is limited by utilizing natural barriers or manually and/or mechanically constructed line.
Confinement - Fire spread is managed by utilizing a combination of direct and indirect actions and use of natural topographic features, fuel, and weather factors.
Control and extinguishment with an emphasis on Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST)

Management Strategy: Criteria to use for developing a multiple management objective response:

Risk to firefighters and public health and safety
Resource Management Objectives and Constraints described in each Polygon
Threats and values to be protected
Weather
Fuel Conditions
Cost efficiencies
Resource Availability

Management strategies and action points will be based on fire activity and location. Normally, specific actions or combinations of actions will be determined on site by the incident commander.

POLYGON NAME	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS	SUPPRESSION CONSTRAINTS
A1- Cedar Mountain **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Communication sites Cultural rock features Urban interface	The objective in this area is to provide some form of protection ranging from suppression to notification of land owner and protection of communication sites, target range, picnic area, and trail within the area. Additional objectives include: • Provide protection for the cultural rock features within the	Limit wildland fire within perimeter	No heavy equipment within perimeter. In 1956 the BLM granted the Colorado Army National Guard a 40 acre tract for the use as a small arms rifle range in Township 7N, Range 91W, and Section 16. The fire management polygon has an associated Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) base layer map in WFDSS and Wildcad for fire management safety, objectives, and strategies. Fire

	area. • Provide protection for all communication sites, power lines, and buildings.		and field personnel need to follow UXO safety through UXO awareness briefings and following safety guidelines in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG).
B1- Urban Interface **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Private Lands Oil & Gas Facilities Sage Grouse habitat	The primary objective is to protect big game severe winter range and sage grouse habitat. Wildland fires will be suppressed because of the large private land holdings. This is a priority area for hazard fuels treatments to reduce the risk of urban-interface fires. BLM lands adjoining National Forest or State Lands will be managed consistent with fire management goals on those adjoining lands. Additional objectives include: • Protect the scenic corridor and facilities and signs along the Yampa Valley Trail. • Provide some form of protection for the YVEA/WAPA power line. • Provide some form of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities. • Provide protection for all communication sites, power lines, and buildings.	Wildfire is not desired in greater sage-grouse priority habitat. Limit wildfires in sage-grouse priority habitat to 500 acres or less in size when possible. Fire and vegetation treatments can be utilized to improve big game winter habitat and may be used in greater sage-grouse habitat providing objectives for sage-grouse management are met (resource guidelines; suppression is standard operating procedure for B polygon).	No heavy equipment in the facility area. Rock art sites are recorded in the polygon, therefore, use of fire retardant along cliffs should be avoided or the area archaeologist should be consulted prior to application. Avoid heavy equipment use or surface disturbance on the Yampa Valley Trail. Avoid constructing permanent fire brakes on ridges or saddles. Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities, such as above ground pipelines and aerial power lines.
B2- Sandhills/Crooked Wash/Axial **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2**	The primary objective is to protect the sage grouse, big game winter range by maintaining and improving browse conditions as well as creating a vegetative mosaic.	Burn <10% in prescribed or Management Objectives fires over a 10-year period outside of greater sage-grouse habitat. Manage all wildfires to <500 acres to protect sage grouse	Avoid heavy equipment use of surface disturbance though the Yampa Valley Trail. Rock art sites are recorded in the polygon, therefore, use of fire retardant along cliffs should

Highest Protection Priorities: Sage Grouse Cultural resources near cliff faces	Additional objective include: • Protect the scenic corridor and facilities and signs along the Yampa Valley trail. • Provide some form of protection for the YVEA/WAPA power line and communication sites in polygon. • Provide some form of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities. • Provide protection all for communication sites, power lines, and buildings. • Provide protection for all cultural sites, including Juniper Hot Springs wickiup, Axial Basin rock art/rock shelter, Round Bottom homestead, and Monument Butte rock art.	habitat/ production areas and big game winter range (resource guidelines; suppression is standard operating procedure for B polygon).	be avoided or the area archaeologist should be consulted prior to application. Limit equipment use in travel restricted areas to existing roads and trails. Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines and aerial power lines.
B3- Irish Canyon ACEC **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Oil & Gas Facilities Cultural Sites Sage Grouse Winter Use Habitat	The objective is to protect the area from wildfire. The area contains remnant plant associations, and Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality and geologic value concerns. Fire is considered a natural process within the plant communities. However, because of its high scenic value, the area will be protected from wildland fires. Additional objectives include: • Provide protection for the rock art interpretive site and trail, and other identified cultural features. • Provide some form of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities. • Provide protection for the campground	Burn <25% in one year. Wildfire is not desired in sage-grouse priority habitat within this polygon (resource guideline: Suppression is standard operating procedure for B polygon).	Limit heavy equipment use to existing roads/trails where possible. Rock art sites are recorded in the polygon, therefore, use of fire retardant along cliffs should be avoided or the area archaeologist should be consulted prior to application. Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines and aerial power lines.

	and associated facilities.		
B4- Big Gulch **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 3** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Oil & Gas Facilities Cultural Sites Sage grouse habitat	Fire is desired for habitat improvement. However, wildland fires will be suppressed because of the large private land holdings and critical sage grouse habitat. This is a priority area for hazard fuels treatments to reduce the risk of urban-interface fires. Additional objectives include: • Provide the maximum level of protection for sage grouse habitat. • Provide appropriate level of protection for big game severe winter range. • Provide the appropriate level of protection for private property, oil and gas sites, and facilities within the polygon. • Provide protection for all communication sites, power lines, and buildings. • (Protection can range from suppression to notification of private owners).	Limit wildfires in sage-grouse habitat to 500 acres or less in size when possible. Fire and vegetation treatments can be utilized to improve big game winter habitat and may be used in greater sage-grouse habitat providing objectives for sage-grouse management are met. Optimally, no more than 10% of big game severe winter range should be burned or regenerated in the next 10 years(resource guidelines; suppression is standard operating procedure for B polygon).	No heavy equipment in the facility area. Rock art sites are recorded in the polygon, therefore, use of fire retardant along cliffs should be avoided or the area archaeologist should be consulted prior to application. Avoid heavy equipment use or surface disturbance on BLM lands. Avoid constructing permanent firebreaks on ridges or saddles. Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines and aerial power lines.

B5- Browns Park **Fire Regime: 3& 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Sage grouse habitat T&E Ute Ladies Tresses by the Green River WUI	The primary objective is to protect the critical sagebrush as well as deer severe winter range. BLM lands within the area will be managed in conjunction with the NWR. • Provide protection for all communication site, power lines, and buildings.	Burn <10% over the next 10 years in sagebrush habitats (resource guidelines; suppression is standard operating procedure for B polygon).	Minimal use of heavy equipment in sagebrush stands, and use existing roads and trails to avoid long term resource damage. Work with Browns Park NWR on use of mechanized equipment on Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lands. The Lodore School (5MF1127) and Two Bar Ranch (5MF1126) are located within the polygon on FWS land. These sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and should be protected from wildfire with full suppression and other actions consistent with preservation of these sites. Rock art sites are recorded in the polygon, therefore, use of fire retardant along cliffs should be avoided or the area archaeologist should be consulted prior to application for the preservation of the sites.
B6- Scandinavian Gulch **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Private Land and Structures Sage Grouse Habitat	The objective is to protect and maintain sage grouse habitat and big game winter range. Additional objectives include: • Provide some form of protection for oil and gas sties and associated facilities. • Provide the appropriate protection for private property, and work with the sheriff and landowners to establish agreements for managed fires in the area.	Limit wildfires in sage-grouse habitat to 500 acres or less in size when possible. Fire and vegetation treatments can be utilized to improve big game winter habitat and may be used in greater sage-grouse habitat providing objectives for sage-grouse management are met. Optimally, no more than 15% big game winter range will be burned or regenerated in the next 10 years (resource guidelines; suppression is standard operating procedure for B polygon).	This is a travel restricted area; limit the use of heavy equipment to existing roads and trails whenever possible. Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines aerial power lines. Avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges and saddles.
B7- Bald Mountain Basin **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u>	The primary objective is to protect and maintain sage-grouse habitat and big game severe winter range. For sage grouse, limit fire to smaller mosaic burns, and limit prescribed burning to outside	Burn <10% in prescribed or managed fires over a 10-year period outside of sage-grouse habitat. Optimally, no more than 10% of big game habitat will be burned or regenerated in the next 10 years. Limit	Limit heavy equipment use to existing roads and trails, where possible, in the pinyon/juniper woodland because of possibility of cultural sites. Suppression resources must be aware of the

Sage Grouse Habitat Industry Infrastructure Powerlines Oil & Gas Facilities	of the breeding period. This area contains a significant number of old vegetative treatments (chaining's) that need to be retreated. Additional objectives include: • Provide some form of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities. • Provide protection for all communication sites, power lines, and buildings. • (Protection can range from suppression to notification of private owners).	wildfires in sage-grouse habitat to 500 acres or less in size when possible. Fire and vegetation treatments can be utilized to improve big game winter habitat and may be used in greater sage-grouse habitat providing objectives for sage-grouse management are met. (Resource guidelines; suppression is standard operating procedure for B polygon).	hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as ground pipelines and aerial power lines.
B8- Slater Creek **Fire Regime: 5** **Condition Class: 1** Highest Protection Priorities: Private Lands & Structures Oil and Gas Facilities Sage Grouse Habitat Planned Actions:	The objective in this area is to protect and maintain sage-grouse habitat, and to improve habitat for deer and pronghorn using fuel treatments to improve the shrub area class diversity. Additional objectives include: • Work with sheriff and landowners to establish agreements for use of managed fires in area. • Provide some form of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities. • (Protection can range from suppression, to notification of private owners).	Burn <10% in prescribed or managed fires over a 10-year period. Limit wildfires in sage-grouse habitat to 500 acres or less in size when possible. Fire and vegetation treatments can be utilized to improve big game winter habitat and may be used in greater sage-grouse habitat providing objectives for sage-grouse management are met. Optimally, no more than 10% of big game winter range will be burned or regenerated in the next 10 years. Manage wildland fires at a final fire size of 100 acres or less (resource guidelines; suppression is standard operating procedure for B polygon).	- Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines and aerial power lines. Limit the use of heavy equipment to roads and trails if possible, and avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges or saddles.
C1- Serviceberry **Fire Regime: 3** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Private Lands Sage Grouse Habitat Holmes Homestead T12N, R90W	The objective in this area is to improve habitat for deer and pronghorn using fuel treatment to improve the shrub age class diversity, and to enhance sage grouse habitat. For sage grouse, limit fires to smaller mosaic burns, and limit prescribed burning to outside of the breeding period.	Burn <10% in prescribed or managed fire over a 10-year period. Optimally, no more than 10% of severe winter range for mule deer and pronghorn will be burned or regenerated in the next 10 years. Protect and maintain the limited amount of sage-grouse habitat within this polygon. Manage all wildland fire at a final fire size of 100 acres or less. Protect Holmes	Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines and aerial power lines. Limit use of heavy equipment to roads and trails if possible, and avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges or saddles. Unless a current agreement with the private landowner for managed fires is in place, a suppression-

		Homestead (5MF527: T 12 N, R 90W) historic structures from wildfire.	oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuels. The same constraints will occur with fires in the area of oil and gas facilities.
C2- Ponderosa Pine **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> WUI	The primary objective in this area is to promote the long term health of ponderosa pine. Fire is generally desired in this polygon. This is a high priority area for hazard fuel treatments to reduce the fire risk to isolated cabins and residences on Douglas Mountain.	Understory and mixed severity fires in the ponderosa pine are desired, however avoid managing larger fires for resource benefit that are resulting in greater than 60% mortality of ponderosa trees 10 inches diameter at breast height (d.b.h.) and greater. Small mosaic burns are desired in sharptail habitat with prescribed burning limited to outside of the breeding period.	Limit the use of heavy equipment to roads and trails if possible, and avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges or saddles. Wildfires that threaten private land will be suppressed until agreements can be negotiated with landowners.
C3- Lodgepole Pine **Fire Regime: 5** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u>	The primary objective is to promote the long term forest health. Fire is desired in Lodgepole Pine and Aspen for regeneration. Burns in this this fuel type are desired, particularly for aspen regeneration. Suppression resource must be aware of bark beetle mitigation measures during all fire operations for fire fighter safety.	Re-evaluate management strategy if greater than 50% of the area is burned within the next 10-years.	Limit the use of heavy equipment to roads and trails if possible, and avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges or saddles.
C4- Danforth Hills **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u>	Manage naturally ignited fires <500 acres in size throughout this area to promote a vegetative mosaic.	Optimally, limit prescribed and wildfires to <25% of the area over the next 10 years.	No mechanized line construction due to fragile soils on steep slopes. Rehabilitate newly constructed fire suppression lines or trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles and to stabilize fragile soils.
C5- Sand Wash **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u>	The three main objectives in this area are: 1. Protect sage grouse leks/winter range by maintaining the current grass forage base. 2. Maintain the current grass, forage, and	Wildfire is not desired in sage-grouse priority habitat in this polygon. Manage 85% of all wildland fires at a final fire size of 100 acres or less. Hold fire size to <500 acres between April 1-June 30 in sage grouse production areas. Suppress all fires during horse foaling	Minimize surface disturbance to prevent weed invasion. Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines and aerial power lines. In 1964 the Colorado Army National Guard acquired The Sand

	browse base for the wild horse herd. 3. Maintain the current amount of pinyon/juniper cover for wild horses in the HMA. Additional objectives include: Provide protection for Clay Buttes Wickiup site. • Provide some form of protection for the YVEA/WAPA power lines. • Provide some form of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities • (Protection can range from suppression to notification of private owners).	season March 1- June 15	Wash site by permit for use as a 105mm artillery range. This resulted in a total acreage for Sand Wash artillery range of 23,065.77 acreage comprised of the following sections: T 9N R-99-W Sections 35, 36; T 9N R-98-W Sections 31, 32, 33, 34; T 8N R-99-W Sections 1, 2, 12, 13, 14 and N 112 and SE 114 of Section 11 and N 112 of NE 114 - Section 23 E 112, NW 114, and E 112 of SW 114 - Section 24 T 8N R-98-W Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and the portions of sections 27, 28, 29, and 30 north of Colorado Highway 3 18. The fire management polygon has an associated Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) base layer map in WFDSS and Wildcad for fire management safety, objectives, and strategies. Fire and field personnel need to follow UXO safety through UXO awareness briefings and following safety guidelines in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG).
C6- Antelope Winter **Fire Regime: 1** **Condition Class: 3**	The objective is to enhance pronghorn severe winter range. Use prescribed fire and mechanical/chemical treatments to create a vegetative mosaic.	Burn <25% over a 10-year period. Optimally, no more than 25% of pronghorn winter range will be burned or regenerated over the next 10 years. Manage 85% of all wildland fires at a final fire size of 100 acres or less.	Within one mile around the community of Greystone, fire will receive direct control with the goal of limiting 90% of the fires to ¼ acre or less.
C7- Cold Spring **Fire Regime: 5** **Condition Class: 2**	The objective will be to maintain and protect habitat for sage-grouse. Additional objectives include providing some form of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities (Protection can range from suppression to notification of private owners).	Burn <10% over a 10-year period outside of sage-grouse priority habitat. Manage 85% of all wildland fires at a final size of 100 acres or less.	Limited suppression strategy may be optimal in some areas for fire fighter safety concerns due to heavy fuel loading and steep slopes. Limit the use of heavy equipment to roads and trails if possible, and avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges or saddles. Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines and

			aerial power lines.
C8- Dry Creek/Hoy Flat **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2**	The objective is to protect sage grouse habitat. Limit fires to smaller mosaic burns.	Burn<25% over a 10-year period outside of sage-grouse priority habitat. Manage 85% of all wildland fires at a final size of 100 acres or less.	Limit the use of heavy equipment to roads and trails if possible, and avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges or saddles.
C9- Dry Mountain/Bears Ears **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2**	The objective is to avoid large, stand replacement fires to reduce the probability of large-scale erosion and cheatgrass invasion. Additional objective includes providing the appropriate level of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities.	Burn <15% over a 10-year period.	Limit the use of heavy equipment to roads and trails if possible, and avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges or saddles. Rehabilitate newly constructed fire suppression lines or trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles and to stabilize fragile soils. Limited suppression strategy may be optimal in some areas for fire fighter safety concerns due to heavy fuel loading and steep slopes. Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines and aerial power lines.
D1- West Little Snake **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2**	The objective is to encourage fire to promote mosaic age classes in all plant communities except in sage-grouse priority habitat. Additional objectives include: • Provide some form of protection for the YVEA/WAPA power line. • Provide some form of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities. • Provide protection for all communication site, power lines, and buildings. Resources Constraints- For managed wildland fires evaluate burned areas in the pinyon/juniper woodland and		Suppression resources must be aware of hazards common to most oil and gas facilities such as above ground pipelines and aerial power lines. Limit use of heavy equipment to roads and trails if possible, and avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges or saddles. Unless a current agreement with the private landowner for managed fires is in place, a suppression-oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuels. The same constraints will occur with fires in the area of oil and gas facilities. Limited suppression strategies may be employed for firefighter safety and least cost.

	determine if reseeding is needed to prevent cheatgrass or other invasive species from posing a problem. In areas where insufficient herbaceous plant or seed source exists, Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) will determine if the fire start will be managed for resource benefit.		
D2-WSAs **Fire Regime: 5** **Condition Class: 1**	Encourage fire to promote mosaic age classes in all plant communities.	Burn <50% over a one year period.	A full range of management responses are available with emphasis on multiple management objectives. Fires deemed unsuitable for resource benefit, when analyzed in WFDSS, will be managed using a range of management responses with the emphasis on a perimeter control strategy. Additional constraints include: • Restoration concurrent with or as soon as practicable upon completion of controlled fire measures. • Limit the use of heavy equipment to roads and trails if possible, and avoid constructing permanent fire breaks on ridges and saddles. • Minimize surface disturbance to prevent weed invasion. • Use conditional fire suppression to allow fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem.

FIRE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES TABLES WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE

Fire Management Strategies
The WRFO FMP guidance for fire suppression is to develop an Appropriate Management Response (AMR) plan that recognizes fire as a natural part of the range and forest ecosystem. AMR strategies would be tailored to address areas of significant constraints including Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), critical habitat for T&E species, areas of soil instability, cultural resources, and areas of other critical resource constraints.

Suppression Strategy: Under the concept of Appropriate Management Response (AMR) the range of responses available to implement protection objectives for unplanned ignitions are:

Control - Direct perimeter control and extinguishment
Containment - Fire spread is limited by utilizing natural barriers or manually and/or mechanically constructed line.
Confinement - Fire spread is managed by utilizing a combination of direct and indirect actions and use of natural topographic features, fuel, and weather factors.
Control and extinguishment with an emphasis on Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST)

Management Strategy: Criteria to use for developing a multiple management objective response:

Risk to firefighters and public health and safety
Resource Management Objectives and Constraints described in each Polygon
Threats and values to be protected
Weather
Fuel Conditions
Cost efficiencies
Resource Availability

Management strategies and action points will be based on fire activity and location. Normally, specific actions or combinations of actions will be determined on site by the incident commander.

B Polygons

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: The Appropriate Management Response to an unplanned ignition within "B" polygons would generally be a full suppression action (direct perimeter control). A management strategy that uses natural or pre-constructed barriers or environmental conditions to confine a fire to a predetermined area within the maximum acreage parameters for the specific polygon may also be warranted.

A site-specific suppression or management strategy for all natural ignitions based on weather forecasts, fuel conditions and availability of suppression resources that is consistent with the resource management objectives and constraints should be implemented. Once the decadal burn thresholds have been reached by either planned or unplanned ignitions, a review of objectives and strategies should take place to develop new suppression criteria on all wildland fires.

POLYGON NAME	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS	SUPPRESSION CONSTRAINTS
B1-W Blue Mountain **Fire Regime: 3** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Suitable Sagebrush Canopies Serviceberry & Chokecherry Aspen Communities	*Manage using AMR for fire disturbance size of <200 acres to promote a vegetation pattern in continuous sagebrush stands *Conduct prescribed burns (fuels management) to minimize large scale loss of suitable sagebrush canopies *Maintain overall mature canopy characteristics in the serviceberry, chokecherry and aspen communities as big game/blue grouse cover component	*Avoid large scale involvement of sagebrush canopies; a modified suppression strategy may be appropriate for natural starts with the potential to burn <200 acres, whereas a full suppression response may be appropriate when the incident is capable of exceeding 200 acres *Minimize involvement of serviceberry, chokecherry and aspen communities	*Retain internal unburned vegetation as much as practicable *No mechanized fire line construction due to high density of cultural sites *Limit development of new roads and/or trails through off road use of firefighting equipment *Rehabilitate trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles. *No motorized equipment off designated roads in Moosehead ACEC/Road Closure Area. *No retardant in Moosehead ACEC riparian/wetland habitats
B2-W Elk Springs **Fire Regime: 3** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Private Lands Oil & Gas Facilities	*Protect private lands and oil and gas facilities when threatened by public land fires *Manage for fire disturbances of <200 acres within the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic	*A confine or contain suppression strategy may be appropriate for fires with the potential to burn <200 acres, whereas a full suppression response may be appropriate when the incident is capable of exceeding 200 acres	*None
B3-W Salt Desert Shrub **Fire Regime: 3** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: All Native Plant Communities Fragile Soils	*Minimize fire induced conversion of native plant communities to cheat grass or other non-native plant communities *Maintain extent and distribution of low (<3') forms of sagebrush types, particularly east of Wolf Creek, as high-density sage grouse winter use habitat	*Limit fire size, where possible, to 50 acres or less *Provide immediate rehabilitation efforts on any fire exceeding 10 acres in size	*No mechanized fire line construction due to fragile soils *Off road equipment use should be minimized due to fragile soils, and any disturbance resulting from suppression efforts should immediately be rehabilitated to prevent further motorized vehicular access

			*Hose lays preferred to running attack * No motorized equipment off designated roads and no retardant use in Raven Ridge and Coal Oil Rim ACECs
B4-W Crooked Wash /Indian Valley **Fire Regime: 3** **Condition Class: 3** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Oil & Gas Facilities Cultural Sites Sage Grouse Winter Use Habitat	*Manage for small sized fire disturbances to promote a vegetation mosaic pattern in continuous sagebrush stands *Maintain extent and distribution of low (<3') forms of sagebrush type as high-density sage grouse winter use habitat *Guard against inclusion by fire of oil and gas facilities within the White River Dome area *Conduct prescribed burns (fuels management) to minimize large-scale loss of suitable sagebrush canopies	*Avoid large-scale involvement of sagebrush canopies, while promoting a vegetation pattern in continuous sagebrush stands *A confine or contain suppression strategy may be appropriate for fires with the potential to burn <200 acres, whereas a full suppression response may be appropriate when the incident is capable of exceeding 200 acres	*Retain internal unburned vegetation as much as practicable *No mechanized fire line construction due to high potential of cultural sites & fragile soils *Limit development of new roads and/or trails through off road use of firefighting equipment *Rehabilitate trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles *No motorized equipment off designated roads and no retardant use in Blacks Gulch ACEC
B5-W Douglas Creek **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 3** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Oil & Gas Facilities Cultural Sites	*Protect oil and gas facilities and cultural resource sites when threatened by public land fires *Manage for small fire disturbances (up to 30-40 acres in size in PJ or sagebrush) to promote a vegetation mosaic *Conduct prescribed burns (fuels management) to mitigate potential fire impacts to oil and gas facilities and cultural sites	*A confine or contain suppression strategy may be appropriate for fires with the potential to burn <200 acres in PJ or sagebrush, whereas a full suppression response may be appropriate when the incident is capable of exceeding 200 acres	*Retain internal unburned vegetation as much as practicable *No mechanized fire line construction due to high potential of cultural sites & fragile soils *Limit development of new roads and/or trails through off road use of firefighting equipment *Rehabilitate trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles *No retardant use in riparian areas of Douglas Creek ACEC *No motorized equipment off designated roads in Canyon Pintado National Historic District *Only water or foam can be used in Canyon Pintado area *Fires within the Canyon Pintado National Historic District will have a Resource Advisor ordered. The identified Resource Advisor will ensure White River Field Office cultural staff are advised of suppression and rehab activities
B6-W Yellow Creek	*Protect known cultural sites and vegetation types with high	*A confine or contain suppression strategy may be appropriate for	*Retain internal unburned vegetation as much as practicable

Fire Regime: 4 **Condition Class: 3** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Cultural Sites Vegetation Types With High Potential For Occurrence For Sites i.e. Old Growth (P/J) T & E Species Plant Communities <u>Planned Actions:</u> 2013/14 – Crossroads Park 108 acres MX treatment (Lop & Scatter)	potential for occurrence of cultural sites (PJ type) when threatened by public land fires *Manage naturally ignited fires of up to 200 acres in size throughout the unit to promote vegetation mosaic *Conduct prescribed burns or other fuels management treatments in both the PJ type and in sagebrush dominated drainages to break up the continuous fuels connecting large stands of PJ; thus mimicking natural perturbations and minimizing large scale involvement of the PJ type	fires with the potential to burn <200 acres in PJ or sagebrush, whereas a full suppression response may be appropriate when the incident is capable of exceeding 200 acres	*No mechanized fire line construction due to high potential of cultural sites, high potential of rare plants or remnant plant associations, and fragile soils *Limit use of retardant due to high potential of rare plants (listed threatened species), notably on barren ridges and slopes where potential habitat exists *Limit surface use (disturbance) of barren lands in hand line construction and access of firefighting equipment, and limit motorized equipment use to existing roads or trails due to high potential of rare plants *No motorized equipment off designated roads and no retardant use in the Duck Creek ACEC *Fires which involve old growth pinyon/juniper that enter into extended attack will have a Resource Advisor ordered
B7-W Piceance Creek **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 3** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Private Land and Structures T&E Species Plant Communities	*Protect agricultural lands and residences when threatened by public land fires	*None	*No mechanized line construction, and limit retardant use on toe slopes (barren lands), on both sides of Piceance Creek from Collins Gulch down to the confluence of Dry Fork Piceance Creek due to rare plants (listed threatened species) *No motorized equipment or vehicle use off designated roads and no retardant use in the Dudley Bluffs, Ryan Gulch, and Deer Gulch ACECs
B8-W Magnolia **Fire Regime: 3** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Industry Infrastructure Powerlines Oil & Gas Facilities	*Utilize multiple management objectives, when possible, for small fire disturbances (up to 50 acres in size in PJ or sagebrush) to promote a vegetation diversity *Conduct prescribed burns or other vegetation treatments to mitigate potential fire impacts to oil and gas facilities as well as to achieve age and structural	*Reclaim any route(s) into the fire that did not exist prior to the fire	*No mechanized line construction, and limit retardant use due to high potential of rare plants, remnant plant associations, and fragile soils *Limit surface use of barren lands in hand line construction and access of firefighting equipment, and limit motorized equipment use to existing roads or trails due

	diversity in the mountain shrub type		to high potential of rare plants *No motorized equipment off designated roads and no retardant use in the Dudley Bluffs ACEC
B9-W Meeker East **Fire Regime: 3** **Condition Class: 3** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Private Lands & Structures <u>Planned Actions:</u> 2013 – Wilson/Baldy 26 acres MX treatment (Hazard tree removal along roads)	*Protect private land and structures when threatened by public land fires *Manage BLM lands adjoining National Forest Lands or Colorado Division of Wildlife Lands consistent with fire management goals on those adjoining lands	*None	*None
B10-W White River **Fire Regime: 3** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Private Lands Mature Cottonwood Stands Mature Riparian Shrub	*Protect mature cottonwood stands as bald eagle nest and roost habitat, mature riparian shrub, and private lands when threatened by public land fires *Protect private land and structures when threatened by public land fires	*Minimize loss of cottonwood trees, especially mature individuals, & minimize sediment entering river	*No mechanical fire line construction or vehicle use within riparian zones *No retardant use within the White River ACEC (entire unit) due to T&E river fishes

C Polygons

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

A full range of management responses are available within "C" polygons.

A site-specific suppression or management strategy for all natural ignitions based on weather forecasts, fuel conditions and availability of suppression resources that is consistent with the resource management objectives and constraints should be implemented. Once the decadal burn thresholds have been reached by either planned or unplanned ignitions, a review of objectives and strategies should take place to develop new suppression criteria on all wildland fires. Wildlife forage:cover ratios would be used as a preseason evaluation criteria to determine potential changes in polygon management.

POLYGON NAME	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS	SUPPRESSION CONSTRAINTS
C1-BakingPowder /Pinyon Ridge **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Cultural Sites Fragile Soils	*Manage for fire disturbances of <200 acres within the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic representing natural distributions of plant communities of varying successional stages	*Limit fires to 200 acres in the PJ type and 400 acres in sagebrush *Retain internal unburned vegetation as much as practicable *Maximum acceptable burned acres within unit are 250 acres in PJ and 500 acres in sagebrush per year. Maximum acceptable burned acres per decade will be 500 acres in PJ and 2,500 acres in sagebrush throughout the unit *Full Suppression within 1 mile of improvements or private land where continuous heavy full is a factor, within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuel	*No mechanized fire line construction due to high potential of cultural sites, the Pinyon Ridge Roadless Area, and fragile soils *Limit development of new roads or trails through off road use of firefighting equipment *Restrict use to existing roads and trails to the maximum extent possible due to fragile soils and Pinyon Ridge Roadless Area *Rehabilitate new trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles
C2W-Spooky Mountain **Fire Regime: 3** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Deserado Mine	*Protect Deserado Coal Mine, conveyor belt, and railroad when threatened by public land fires *Manage for fire disturbances up to 100 acres in size in juniper and 200 acres in size in sagebrush throughout the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic	*Limit fires to 100 acres in juniper and 200 acres in sagebrush *Maximum acceptable burned acres within unit are 300 acres in Juniper and 500 acres in sagebrush per year. Maximum acceptable burned acres per decade will be 500 acres in PJ and 1,000 acres in sagebrush throughout the unit *Unless a current agreement with the private landowner is in place, a suppression oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuels	*Limit development of new roads or trails through off road use of firefighting equipment *Restrict use to existing roads or trails to the maximum extent possible due to fragile soils *Rehabilitate new trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles *No motorized equipment off designated roads and no retardant use in Coal Oil Rim ACEC.
C3W-Spring Creek /Big Ridge **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Rangely to CA Oil Shale Tract 345 KV Powerline Oil & Gas Facilities	*Manage naturally ignited fires of up to 500 acres in size throughout the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic *Protect the Rangely to CA Oil Shale Tract 345 KV powerline and scattered oil and gas facilities when threatened by public land fires	*Limit fires to 500 acres in both PJ and sagebrush *Maximum acceptable burned acres within the unit are 750 acres in PJ and 2,000 acres in sagebrush per year. Maximum acceptable burned acres per decade will be 1,500 acres in PJ and 4,000 acres in sagebrush throughout the unit *Unless a current agreement with the private landowner is in place, a suppression oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuels	*Limit development of new roads or trails through off road use of firefighting equipment *Restrict use to existing roads or trails to the maximum extent possible due to fragile soils *Rehabilitate new trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles *No motorized equipment off designated roads and no retardant use in Coal Draw ACEC; no retardant use in riparian systems in East Douglas Creek ACEC
C4W-Rabbit Mountain /Dragon Trail	*Manage naturally ignited fires up to 500 acres in size throughout	*Limit fires to 500 acres in PJ and sagebrush	*No mechanized line construction due to high potential of cultural

Fire Regime: 4 **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Oil & Gas Facilities	the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic *Protect scattered oil & gas facilities when threatened by public land fires	*Maximum acceptable acres burned per year in the PJ and sagebrush types is 750 acres; decadal maximum for the same types is 1,500 acres *Full Suppression within 1 mile of improvements or private land where continuous heavy full is a factor, within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuel	sites *Limit development of new roads or trails through off road use of firefighting equipment *Restrict use to existing roads or trails to the maximum extent possible due to fragile soils *Rehabilitate new trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles
C5W-Greasewood Creek **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Oil Shale, Sodium & Gas Facilities Rare Plant Species	*Maintain the present extent of mature PJ canopies as big game thermal and security cover *Manage naturally ignited fires up to 40 acres in size in PJ and up to 500 acres in size in sagebrush or mountain shrub types *Multiple management objectives may be appropriate to enhance deer winter range *Conduct prescribed burns or other fuels management treatments in both the sagebrush and mountain shrub types to break up the continuous fuels connecting mature stands of PJ to prevent large scale involvement of the PJ type	*Limit fires to 100 acres in PJ and 200-500 acres in sagebrush or mountain shrub types *Maximum acceptable burned acres per year within the unit are 250 acres in PJ and 1,000 acres in sagebrush or mountain shrub types. Maximum acceptable burned acres per decade will be 750 acres in PJ and 2,000 acres in sagebrush and mountain shrub throughout the unit *Full Suppression within 1 mile of improvements or private land where continuous heavy full is a factor, within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuel	*No mechanical fire line construction, and limited retardant use, due to high potential of rare plants or remnant plant associations and fragile soils *Limit surface use (disturbance) of barren lands in hand line construction and access of firefighting equipment, and limit motorized equipment use to existing roads or trails due to high potential of rare plants *No motorized equipment off designated roads, and no retardant use in the Upper Greasewood and Lower Greasewood ACECs
C6W-Lower Piceance Basin **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 3** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Oil Shale, Sodium & Gas Facilities Rare Plant Species Ponderosa Pine Communities <u>Planned Actions:</u> 2013/14 – Crossroads Park 63 acres MX treatment (Lop & Scatter)	*Manage naturally ignited fires of up to 200 acres in size in PJ and up to 500 acres in size in sagebrush types throughout the unit to promote vegetation mosaic *Multiple management objectives may be appropriate to enhance deer habitat, notably through emphasizing disturbances of 30-40 acres (optimal size) in mature PJ *Maintain continuing development of mature PJ stands on 40% of the large Piceance and Yellow Creek chainings *Conduct prescribed burns or other fuels management treatments in the chained areas to break up the continuous, heavy fuels to prevent large acreage burns within these chainings *Conduct prescribed burns or	*Limit fires to 200 acres in PJ and 200-500 acres in the sagebrush type *Maximum acceptable burned acres per year within the unit is 500 acres in PJ and 1,000 acres in the sagebrush type. Maximum acceptable burned acres per decade will be 1,500 acres in PJ and 2,000 acres in sagebrush throughout the unit *Full Suppression within 1 mile of improvements or private land where continuous heavy full is a factor, within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuel *Areas containing ponderosa pine will be given special management consideration in accordance with the White River Field Office Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Pages 2-19	*No mechanized fire line construction, and limited retardant use due to high potential of rare plants or remnant plant associations and fragile soils *Limit surface use (disturbance) of barren lands in hand line construction and access of firefighting equipment, and limit motorized equipment use to existing roads or trails due to high potential of rare plants *No motorized equipment off designated roads and no retardant use in the Ryan Gulch ACEC

	other fuels management treatments in sagebrush dominated drainages to break up the continuous fuels connecting large stands of PJ *Protect oil shale, sodium, and gas facilities scattered throughout the unit when threatened by public land fires		
C7W-Evacuation /Missouri Creek **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Oil & Gas Facilities Cultural Sites	*Manage naturally ignited fires of up to 200 acres in size throughout the unit to promote vegetation mosaic *Increase emphasis on attaining numerous small 30-40 acre fires in mature PJ *Protect scattered oil and gas facilities and known cultural sites when threatened by public land fires	*Limit fires to 200 acres in PJ and sagebrush/greasewood *Maximum acceptable burned acreage per year for the PJ and sagebrush types is 750 acres; decadal maximum for the same types is 1,500 *Full Suppression within 1 mile of improvements or private land where continuous heavy full is a factor, within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuel	*No mechanized line construction due to high potential of cultural sites *Limit development of new roads or trails through off road use of firefighting equipment *Restrict use to existing roads or trails to the maximum extent possible due to fragile soils *Rehabilitate new trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles *No motorized equipment in Oil Spring Mountain WSA
C8W-Baxter/Douglas Pass **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Mature Forest Types E Douglas Riparian Systems	*Maintain the mature to over-mature forest characteristics as big game security cover and for specialized non-game and fisheries habitat *Promote and/or enhance intra-stand structural complexity (age/composition) in the forest types *Allow fires in the shrub and sagebrush types throughout the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic	*Suppress fires with potential for stand replacement or large scale events in the forest type, notably when fires have the capability or opportunity of exceeding 5 acres *Contain extent of burn to acreage burned in first burning period to avoid potential of including additional coniferous stands *Limit burned acreage to less than 250 acres per decade in the coniferous type *No constraints currently apply to the shrub and sagebrush communities *Full Suppression within 1 mile of improvements or private land where continuous heavy full is a factor, within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuel	*No mechanized line construction due to fragile soils on steep slopes *Rehabilitate hand lines and surface disturbances to prevent sediment loads from erosive soils from entering critical fishery habitats *Restrict use to existing roads or trails to the maximum extent possible due to fragile soils *Rehabilitate new trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles *No retardant use in riparian systems in East Douglas Creek ACEC
C9W-Danforth Hills **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Oil & Gas Facilities	*Manage naturally ignited fires of up to 200 acres in size throughout the unit to promote a vegetative mosaic *Protect oil and gas facilities in the Wilson Creek Oil Field and	*Limit fires to 200 acres in any fuel type *Maximum acceptable burned acres per year within the unit is 1,000 acres in mountain shrub and 750 acres in other fuel types.	*No mechanized line construction due to fragile soils on steep slopes *Restrict use to existing roads or trails to the maximum extent possible due to fragile soils

Powerlines Planned Actions: 2013 – Wilson/Baldy 71 acres MX treatment (Hazard tree removal along roads & trails)	major powerlines crossing the unit when threatened by public land fires	Maximum acceptable burned acres per decade will be 2,500 acres in mountain shrub and 1,500 acres in other fuel types throughout the unit *Unless a current agreement with the private landowner is in place, a suppression oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuels	*Rehabilitate new trails to prevent continued use by motorized vehicles
C10W-Fletcher **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 3** Highest Protection Priorities: Rangely to CA Oil Shale Tract 345 KV powerline Oil & Gas Facilities	*Manage naturally ignited fires of up to 100 acres in PJ and 200 acres in sagebrush throughout the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic *Protect the Rangely to CA Oil Shale Tract 345 KV powerlines	*Limit fires to 250 acres in both PJ and sagebrush *Maximum acceptable burned acres within the unit are 250 acres in PJ and 1,000 acres in sagebrush per year. Maximum acceptable burned acres per decade will be 500 acres in PJ and 2,000 acres in sagebrush throughout the unit *Unless a current agreement with the private landowner is in place, a suppression oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuels	*East of Spring Creek: no mechanized fire line construction, and limited retardant use due to high potential of rare plants (listed threatened species), remnant plant associations, and fragile soils *Limit surface use (disturbance) of barren lands in hand line construction and access of firefighting equipment, and limit motorized equipment use to existing roads or trails, due to high potential of rare plants *No motorized equipment of designated roads and no retardant use in the Yanks Gulch ACEC

D Polygons

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

A full range of management responses with an emphasis on a multiple management objective strategy are available within "D" polygons.

A site-specific suppression or management strategy for all natural ignitions based on weather forecasts, fuel conditions and availability of suppression resources that is consistent with the resource management objectives and constraints should be implemented. Once the decadal burn thresholds have been reached by either planned or unplanned ignitions, a review of objectives and strategies should take place to develop new suppression criteria on all wildland fires.

POLYGON NAME	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS	SUPPRESSION CONSTRAINTS
D1W-Blue Mtn Dinosaur Boundary **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Fragile Soils on Steep Slopes	*Provide a buffer area adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument which enhances the Park Service's ability to implement their fire management objectives within the monument. Buffer area provides a natural fuel break along the Yampa River and Wolf Creek divide separating the important	*None *Unless a current agreement with the private landowner is in place, a suppression oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse	*No mechanized line construction due to fragile soils on steep slopes *Restrict use to existing roads or trails to the maximum extent possible due to fragile soils *Rehabilitate new trails to prevent continued use by motorized

Planned Actions: 2013 – Badger Flats 391 acres MX treatment (525 acres had been analyzed for fire)	sagebrush habitats on Blue Mountain	fuels	vehicles
D2W-Bull Canyon **Skull Creek WSA's** **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Use MIST tactics in WSA's	*Manage naturally ignited fires throughout the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic	*None *Unless a current agreement with the private landowner is in place, a suppression oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuels	*No mechanized line construction due to three wilderness study areas *No motorized vehicle use within the WSAs. Limit surface disturbance from all firefighting activities to minimum necessary to protect life and property *Rehabilitate all disturbance in accordance with interim policy (handbook H-8550-1)
D3W-Citadel/Gray Hills **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 3** Highest Protection Priorities: Use MIST tactics in WSA's	*Manage naturally ignited fires throughout the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic *Conduct prescribed burns within the mountain shrub type to achieve a younger age class of shrubs for improved big game habitats	*None *Unless a current agreement with the private landowner is in place, a suppression oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuels	*No mechanized line construction due to the Black Mountain and Windy Gulch WSAs *No motorized vehicle use within the WSAs. *Limit surface disturbance from all firefighting activities to a minimum necessary to protect life or property *Rehabilitate all disturbance in accordance with interim policy (handbook H-8550-1)
D4W-Little Hills **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** Highest Protection Priorities: Kendall Peak Communications Site Meeker to CB Tract 345 KV Powerline Oil & Gas Facilities Greater Sage Grouse Habitat	*Manage naturally ignited fires throughout the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic *Conduct prescribed burns or other vegetation treatments on the mountain shrub type to achieve age and structural diversity.	*Protect communications sites on Kendall Peak, Meeker to CB tract 345 KV powerline an oil & gas facilities when threatened by public land fires *Unless a current agreement with the private landowner is in place, a suppression oriented response will occur for fires within 1 mile of private land where continuous heavy fuel is a factor, and within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuels *Greater sage grouse protection and habitat enhancement will be considered when evaluating natural ignitions for resource benefit	*No mechanized line construction, and limit retardant use due to high potential of rare plants, remnant plant associations, and fragile soils *Limit surface use of barren lands in hand line construction and access of firefighting equipment, and limit motorized equipment use to existing roads or trails due to high potential of rare plants *No motorized equipment off designated roads and no retardant use in the Dudley Bluffs and Deer Gulch ACECs *Fires within priority or general habitat, as identified by White River Field Office Wildlife Staff, which are not contained within one full operational period will have a Resource Advisor assigned (per Instruction Memorandum 2011-138). A full range of fire management activities and

			options will be utilized to sustain healthy ecosystems (including Greater Sage-Grouse habitats) within acceptable risk levels. Comply with the policies established in WO-IM-2011-138 (Sage-Grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management) or successor guidance, regarding suppression operations and fuels management activities.
D5W-Cathedral Bluffs Roan Plateau **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Communications Sites Riparian Systems Oil & Gas Facilities Greater Sage Grouse Habitat	*Manage naturally ignited fires throughout the unit to promote a vegetation mosaic *Conduct prescribed burns or other vegetation treatments on mountain shrub and sagebrush type to achieve age and structural diversity	*Protect communications sites on Cathedral Bluffs and oil & gas facilities when threatened by public land fires *Full Suppression within 1 mile of improvements or private land where continuous heavy full is a factor, within ¼ mile with discontinuous sparse fuel *Greater sage grouse protection and habitat enhancement will be considered when evaluating natural ignitions for resource benefit.	*No mechanized line construction due to the Oil Spring Mountain WSA *No motorized vehicle use within the WSA *No mechanized line construction and limit retardant use due to high potential of rare plants, remnant plant associations, & fragile soils *Limit surface use of barren lands in hand line construction and access of firefighting equipment, and limit motorized equipment use to existing roads or trails due to high potential of rare plants *No motorized equipment off designated roads and no retardant use in the Deer Gulch and South Cathedral Bluffs ACECs *No retardant use in riparian systems in East Douglas Creek ACEC *Fires within priority or general habitat, as identified by White River Field Office Wildlife Staff, which are not contained within one full operational period will have a Resource Advisor assigned (per Instruction Memorandum 2011-138). *A full range of fire management activities and options will be utilized to sustain healthy ecosystems (including Greater Sage-Grouse habitats) within acceptable risk levels. Comply with the policies established in WO-IM-2011-138 (Sage-Grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management) or successor guidance, regarding suppression operations and fuels management activities

Management Objective Tables Kremmling BLM Resource Area

The Following Statements Apply to the Entire KRFO Planning Area

As called for in the national firefighting standards, the emphasis will be on using minimum impact tactics whenever possible. While fires in A and B category areas may require more aggressive suppression tactics, the emphasis will still be on limited impacts. There is a national emphasis to reduce negative effects from suppression actions.

In general, there will be no aerial fire retardant drops in streams and waterways. Aerial application of retardant should be avoided within 300 feet of a waterway. Fire managers should reference "Guidelines for Aerial Application of Fire Retardant and Foams in Aquatic Environments".

Fire Managers will keep records of water depletions in the Upper Platte and Colorado River Systems on wildland fire operations and submit the usage estimates to the Wildlife Biologist at the Field Office or the Colorado State Office of the BLM.

The BLM will work in cooperation with authorization holders to reduce hazardous fuels that could pose a threat to privately owned surface structures or improvements on public lands. These actions will be analyzed in a separate environmental document. In addition the BLM will take appropriate suppression action on all wildland fires that pose a threat to these facilities or structures. However, the BLM will not be held liable for damages to these facilities and structures as a result of wildland fire when suppression actions are being attempted.

Physical fire suppression impacts will be assessed for rehabilitation needs before release of suppression resources necessary to complete the rehabilitation. All burned areas will be evaluated to determine whether fire rehabilitation is needed. This evaluation would include the following three factors:

1) Risk to life or private property - will these resources be threatened if rehabilitation practices are not implemented.

2) Is the area prone to non-native or unacceptable vegetative species, e.g., exotic annual grasses or noxious weeds, or if the species will not meet Land Use Plan Objectives.

3) Will desirable vegetation re-establish itself in sufficient quantities to stabilize soil and prevent on- or off-site soil erosion problems?

For all escaped wildland fires, if the rehabilitation evaluation indicates problems with criteria, an Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Plan (EFRP) will be prepared. This plan would be in accordance with the Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Handbook and Kremmling Resource Area RMP. Following approval of the EFRP, the area would be rehabilitated as detailed in the plan.

Emergency rehabilitation plans will address all critical resources, such as cultural, air, water, and soil, threatened or endangered species, and specifically identify how these resources will be addressed in the rehabilitation of the area if appropriate. Reclamation and rehabilitation activities could begin before the end of suppression activities. As unknown cultural sites or threatened or endangered species are identified, they will be evaluated and included in the appropriate category.

In addition to rehabilitation, areas that have been burned will also be evaluated to determine if they need to be rested from activities including livestock grazing, recreation or ground disturbing activities to allow regeneration. Each area will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The standard rest period for post-fire grazing management will be 2 growing seasons.

The Agency will notify all authorization holders and adjacent landowners of the intent to conduct prescribed burns, prior to the initiation of prescribed fire activities. This fire management plan does not specifically address the use of prescribed fire or fire use. Those activities will initiated and evaluated on a case by case basis in coordination with resource objects, other federal agencies and county-wide fire management plans.

Management Strategy: The Appropriate Management Response to all unplanned ignitions within the KRFO would generally be a full suppression action (direct perimeter control).

Criteria to use for developing a suppression response:

Risk to firefighters and public health and safety
Resource Management Objectives and Constraints described in each Polygon
Threats and values to be protected
Weather
Fuel Conditions
Cost efficiencies
Resource Availability

Management strategies and action points will be based on fire activity and location. Normally, specific actions or combinations of actions will be determined on site by the incident commander.

A site-specific suppression or management strategy for all natural ignitions based on weather forecasts, fuel conditions and availability of suppression resources that is consistent with the resource management objectives and constraints should be implemented. Once the decadal burn thresholds have been reached by either planned or unplanned ignitions, a review of objectives and strategies should take place to develop new suppression criteria on all wildland fires.

Suppression Strategies:

Control - Direct perimeter control and extinguishment
Containment - Fire spread is limited by utilizing natural barriers or manually and/or mechanically constructed line.
Confinement - Fire spread is managed by utilizing a combination of direct and indirect actions and use of natural topographic features, fuel, and weather factors.
Control and extinguishment with an emphasis on Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST)

PRIORITY RANKING AMONG FMU IN KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE

Category	FMU	Suppression	WFU	Fuels Treatment	ESR	Community Assistance/ Protection
KB-1	Sagebrush	High	No	Low	N/A	Moderate
KB-2	Lodgepole Pine	High	No	Moderate	N/A	Moderate
KB-3	Pinon-Juniper	High	No	Moderate	N/A	Moderate
KB-4	Troublesome Wilderness Study Area & Platte River WSA	High	No	Low	N/A	Low

POLYGON NAME	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS	SUPPRESSION CONSTRAINTS
KB-1 Sagebrush ***259,353 acres BLM*** This area consists of sagebrush/grasslands with rare instances of intermittent timber found in the higher elevations. **Fire Regime: 4** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Private Lands Winter Range Oil & Gas Facilities ACEC's Sensitive Soils T&E Species	* The primary objective is to protect private land interest that border public lands. Additional objectives include: • Protect sage grouse, deer, and pronghorn winter range by maintaining and improving browse conditions. • Provide some form of protection for oil and gas sites and associated facilities. • Provide protection for threatened and endangered plant species and areas with sensitive soils. • Provide Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's) at Ammonite Site and North Park Phacelia Sites. *Management strategy is direct or perimeter control of all wildand fires with no Multiple Management Option.	* Optimally, no more than 5% (approx. 13,000 ac.) of the BLM administered land in this polygon should be burned or regenerated by wildland fire in the next 10 years. If this threshold is approached this plan should be reviewed for effectiveness.	*Full suppression but, restrict heavy equipment use to slopes <40%. Limit, as much as possible, ground disturbance in sensitive soil types. *No mechanized equipment within ACEC boundaries or the sensitive soil areas from the Blue River east to Barger Gulch. Use of mechanized equipment would be avoided in habitats which support federal listed endangered or threatened species including Osterhout milkvetch (*Astragalus osterhoutii*), Penland penstemon (*Penstemon penlandii*) , and North Park phacelia (*Phacelia formosula)*. *Also, use of Chemical fire retardants will be avoided in any habitat occupied by *Osterhout milkvetch, Penland penstemon* or North Park phacelia. *These constraints would be waived when mechanized equipment or use of retardant is necessary to assure fire fighter and public safety.
KB-2 Lodgepole Pine ***91,464 acres BLM*** This areas consist of Lodgepole Pine stands interspersed with spruce/fir and aspen **Fire Regime: 5** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Private Lands Protect Timber Stands from large scale fire and/or bug infestations Sensitive Soils T&E Species Riparian Areas	*Although, the KRFO staff recognizes that fire plays a natural role as part of the ecosystem, the primary objective, at this time, is to protect private land interest that border public lands. Additional objectives include: • Protect stands from large scale fire by sound forest management and fuels reduction practices designed to create mosaics that would disrupt the continuity of crown and ground fuels. • Protect stands from bug infestations through best management practices and fuel reduction projects. *Management strategy is direct or perimeter control of all wildand fires with no Multiple Management Option.	*Optimally, less than 10% (approx. 9000ac.) of BLM managed lands should be burned or regenerated by wildland fire in the next 10 years. If this threshold is approached this plan should be reviewed for effectiveness.	*Full suppression but, restrict heavy equipment use to slopes <40%. Limit, as much as possible, ground disturbance in sensitive soil types. *Use of heavy equipment such as bulldozers would be avoided in areas identified as potential habitat for Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis)* where new road or trail construction would be an end result of equipment use. *Use of heavy equipment and chemical retardant in any wet areas including ponds, springs, seeps, which occur in the lodgepole vegetative types would be avoided. These wet areas are potential habitat for boreal toads and should be protected from suppression activities to the extent possible. *These constraints would be waived if heavy equipment or chemical retardants are necessary

			to assure fire fighter and public safety. In this case, post fire management rehabilitation would rehabilitate new roads or trails constructed and/or other impacts to threatened, endangered, and proposed or candidate species as a result of fire suppression activities and rehabilitate to pre-fire conditions, to the extent possible.
KB-3 Pinyon/Juniper ***24,257 acres BLM*** Generally, an overstory of pinyon/juniper interspersed at times with douglas fir, aspen, and small areas of ponderosa pine. **Fire Regime: 5** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Private Lands Critical Winter Range Sensitive Soils Cultural Sites Developed Recreation Sites and Trails Bald Eagle Winter Habitat	*Although, the KRFO staff recognizes that fire plays a natural role as part of the ecosystem, the primary objective, at this time, is to protect private land interest that border public lands. Additional objectives include: • Protect critical winter range for deer and elk. • Provide protection for cultural sites (Yarmony Pit House). • Provide protection for developed recreation sites and trails on or adjacent to Public Lands (Pump House, Radium, Rancho-Del-Rio, and State Bridge). • Protect winter habitat for bald eagles along the Colorado River. *Management strategy is direct or perimeter control of all wildand fires with no Multiple Management Option.	*Optimally, less than 10% (approx.2400ac.) of BLM managed lands should be burned or regenerated by wildland fire in the next 10 years. If this threshold is approached this plan should be reviewed for effectiveness.	*Full suppression but, restrict heavy equipment use to slopes <40%. Limit, as much as possible, ground disturbance in sensitive soil types and near known cultural sites. *Avoid the use of mechanized equipment near known cultural sites or developed recreation areas unless necessary to assure firefighter safety. *Avoid removal of large spruce, fir or cottonwood trees along the Colorado River during suppression activities unless identified as a safety hazard.
KB-4 Troublesome & Platte River Wilderness Study Areas ***8,087 acres BLM*** Primarily, lodgepole pine timber type which bounds the Routt National Forest **Fire Regime: 5** **Condition Class: 2** <u>Highest Protection Priorities:</u> Private Lands, Inholdings & Structures Wilderness Characteristics Riparian Areas	*Although, the KRFO staff recognizes that fire plays a natural role as part of the ecosystem, the primary objective, at this time, is to protect private land interest that border public lands and adjacent USFS Lands. Additional objectives include: • Provide some form of protection for private inholdings and structures within WSA. • Provide protection of wilderness characteristic in all suppression and prescribed fire operations. Follow H-8550-1 Interim Management Policy For Lands Under Wilderness Review.	*None identified.	*Avoid suppression activities that would unnecessarily impair the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness. *Use equipment and tactics designed to minimize impacts to wilderness characteristics. The use of mechanical and earthmoving equipment may be authorized by the agency administrator to meet firefighter safety, protect life and property and minimize suppression impacts to the land. *Use of heavy equipment such as bulldozers would be avoided in areas identified as potential habitat for Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis)* where new road or trail construction would be an end result of equipment use.

	• Emphasize use of Minimum Impact Tactics on suppression actions where fire is not threatening private land. *Management strategy is direct or perimeter control of all wildand fires with no Multiple Management Option.		*Use of heavy equipment and chemical retardant in any wet areas including ponds, springs, seeps, which occur in the lodgepole vegetative types would be avoided. *These wet areas are potential habitat for boreal toads and should be protected from suppression activities to the extent possible. These constraints would be waived if heavy equipment or use of chemical retardants is necessary to assure fire fighter safety. In this case, post fire management rehabilitation would rehabilitate new roads or trails constructed and/or other impacts to threatened, endangered, and proposed or candidate species and suitability of the area for preservation as wilderness as a result of fire suppression activities and rehabilitate to pre-fire conditions, to the extent possible.

RESOURCE AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE TABLES ARAPAHO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

PRIORITY RANKING AMONG FMU IN ARAPAHO NWR AND DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

Category	FMU	Suppression	WFU	Fuels Treatment	ESR	Community Assistance/ Protection
B1-A	Arapaho NWR	High	No	Low	N/A	Low

RESOURCE AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE TABLES ARAPAHO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

B1-A. ARAPAHO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

- 24,800 acres
- *Communities At Risk:*

Geographic Narrative: Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge lies along the Illinois River beginning 1 mile south of Walden, Colorado to approximately 14 miles South on Hwy 125.

Suppression	**High**
Prescribed Fire / Non Fire Fuel Treatments	**Low**
Community Assistance / Protection	**Low**

FIRE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. VEGETATION DESCRIPTION AND DESIRED CONDITIONS: Arapaho NWR is characterized by 14, 600 acres of upland sage brush, 6,900 acres of willow riparian area, 2,425 acres of wet meadow, and 875 surface acres of wetland impoundments. Additionally, the 760 acre Pole Mountain Unit of Arapaho NWR is isolated from the main Refuge, and is located 9 miles south- west of the Arapaho NWR proper. Pole mountain is characterized by aspen, mixed conifer and sage brush habitat types. The entire Refuge is managed to provide high quality wildlife habitat.

   FIRE REGIME: 4
   CONDITION CLASS: 2

2. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: The Arapaho NWR is managed to provide high quality wildlife habitats for the diversity of wildlife species found in this high mountain valley. Wildland fire objectives are to suppress wildland fire throughout the Refuge. Additional Objectives include:
   - Suppress wildland fire with minimum resource damage.
   - Utilize minimum impact management actions (MIMA) where feasible and appropriate.
   - (A1-A) Inholding, Burr Ranch
   - (A2-A) Inholding, Anderson Ranch
   - (A3-A) Inholdings, Burr and Stephens pasture.

- (A4-A) Refuge Structures: Headquarters buildings and Residence, Case Ranch Barn, Hampton Ranch Barn, Soap Creek Residence, Hatchery Structures, numerous informational signs, kiosks and boardwalk on the Refuge.
- (A5-A) Endangered species: North Park Phacelia, desirable to suppress fire, however, suppression activities could damage resource.
- Consider heritage Resources during suppression activities.
- Prevent spread of noxious weeds, including yellow toadflax and Canada thistle.

3. RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS: Suppression of wildfire is a standard operating procedure within B polygons. Suppression constraints and management objectives will be considered during all suppression actions.

4. SUPPRESSION CONSTRAINTS/CONSIDERATIONS: Illinois River riparian area and meadows are managed wet, therefore heavy equipment access is limited. Minimize retardant use within 300 feet of Illinois River. Dependable water source for dipping is available from Mcfarline Reservoir located 16 miles south of Walden Colorado. Pumping from wetlands/ditches/impoundments is acceptable, however, vehicle/equipment access to these wet sites may be limited due to wet conditions. Fires threatening or located on private land inholdings, contact Jackson County Sheriff at 970-723-4242.

5. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – DIRECT OR PERIMETER CONTROL

PLANNED ACTIONS:

1. RESOURCE FUELS TREATMENTS –

2. HAZARD FUELS TREATMENTS -

3. SUPPRESSION/PRESUPPRESSION –

4. MONITORING –

5. ESR -

MULTIPLE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: No

APPENDIX B: NWCFMU FIRE DANGER OPERATING AND PREPAREDNESS

See Craig Interagency Fire Operating and Preparedness Plan

APPENDIX C: INITIAL RESPONSE GUIDE

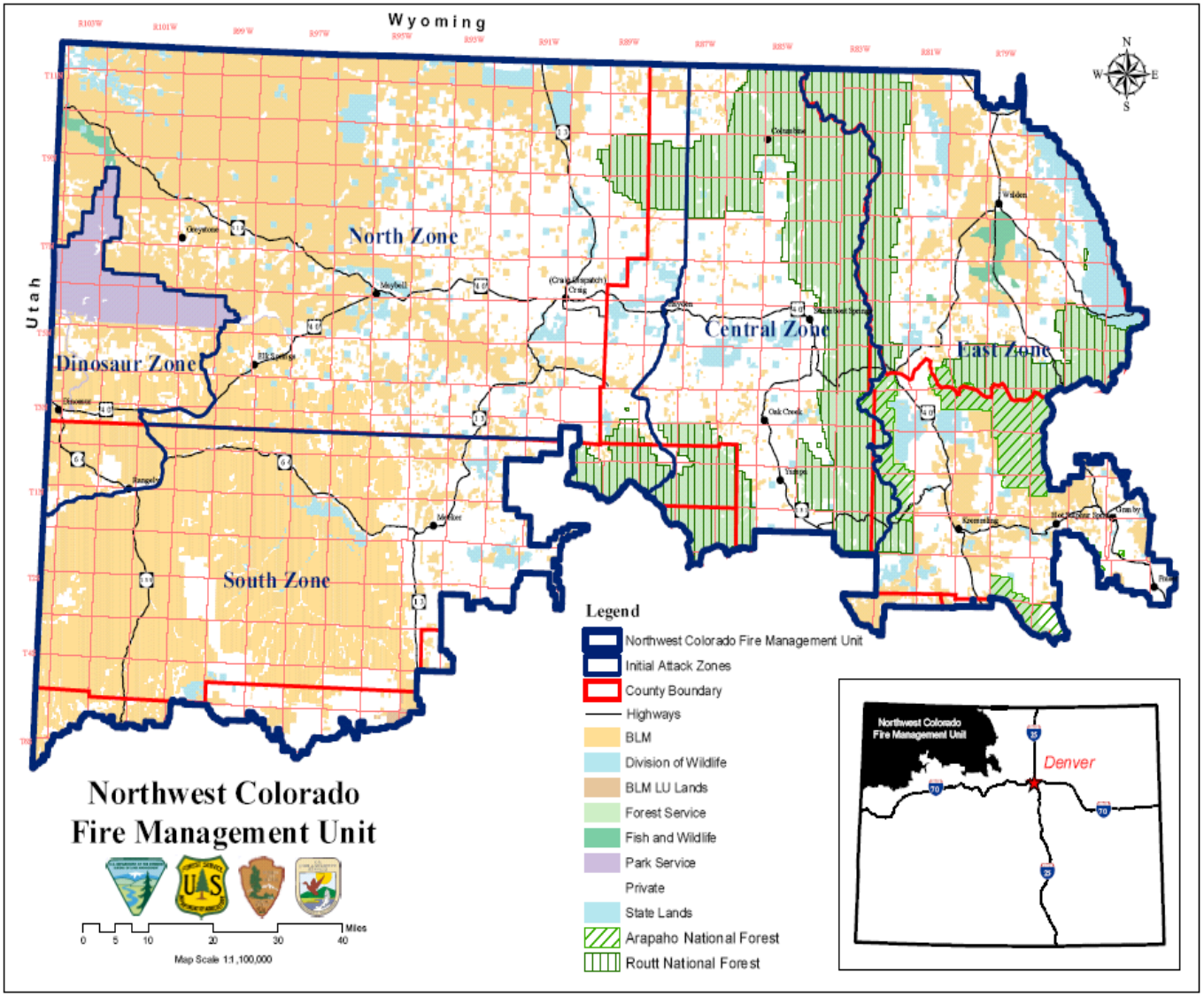
Initial Response Guide (Run Cards)

APPENDIX D: CRAIG INTERAGENCY DISPATCH FIRE RESTRICTION PLAN

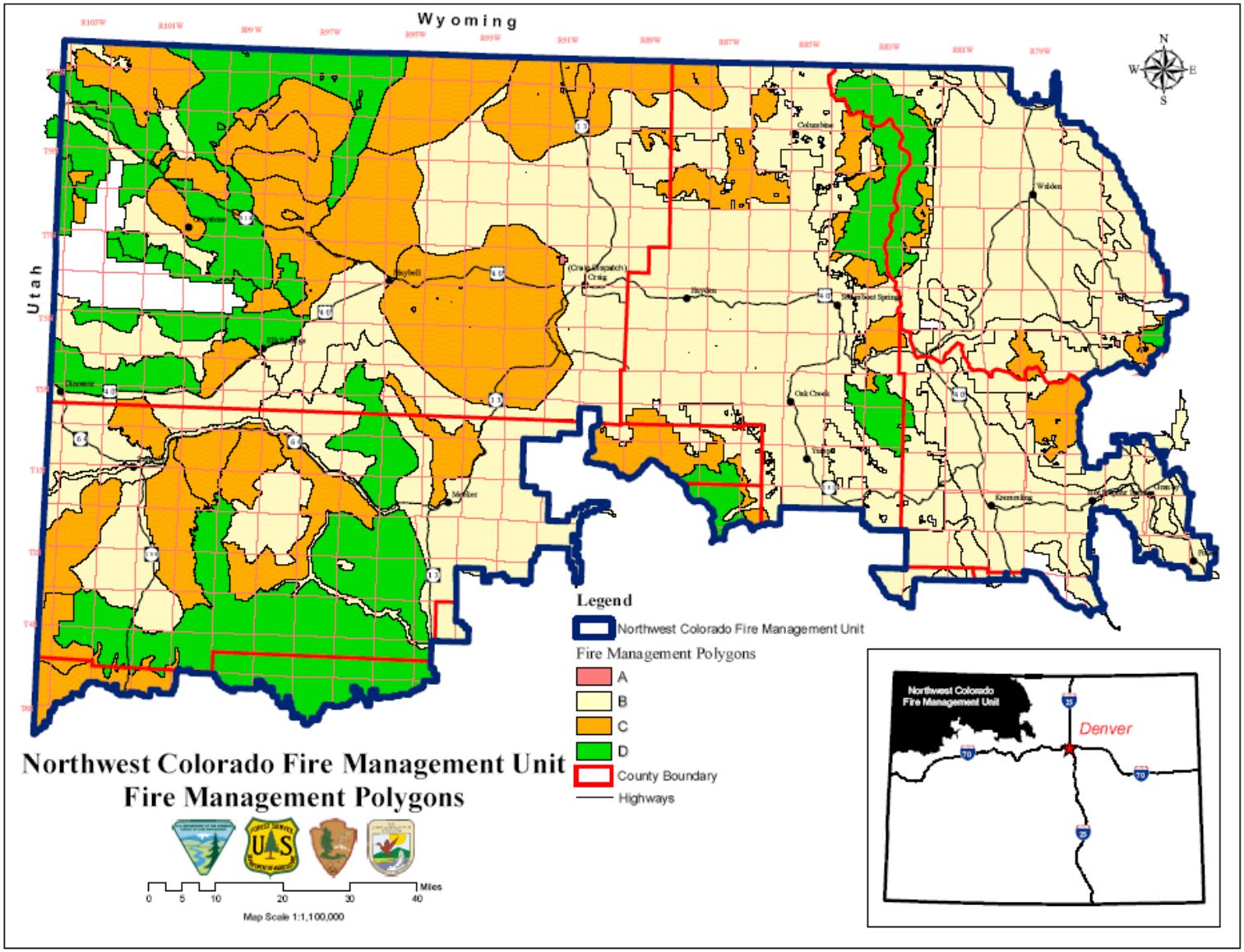
Craig Interagency Dispatch Fire Restriction Plan

APPENDIX E: MAPS

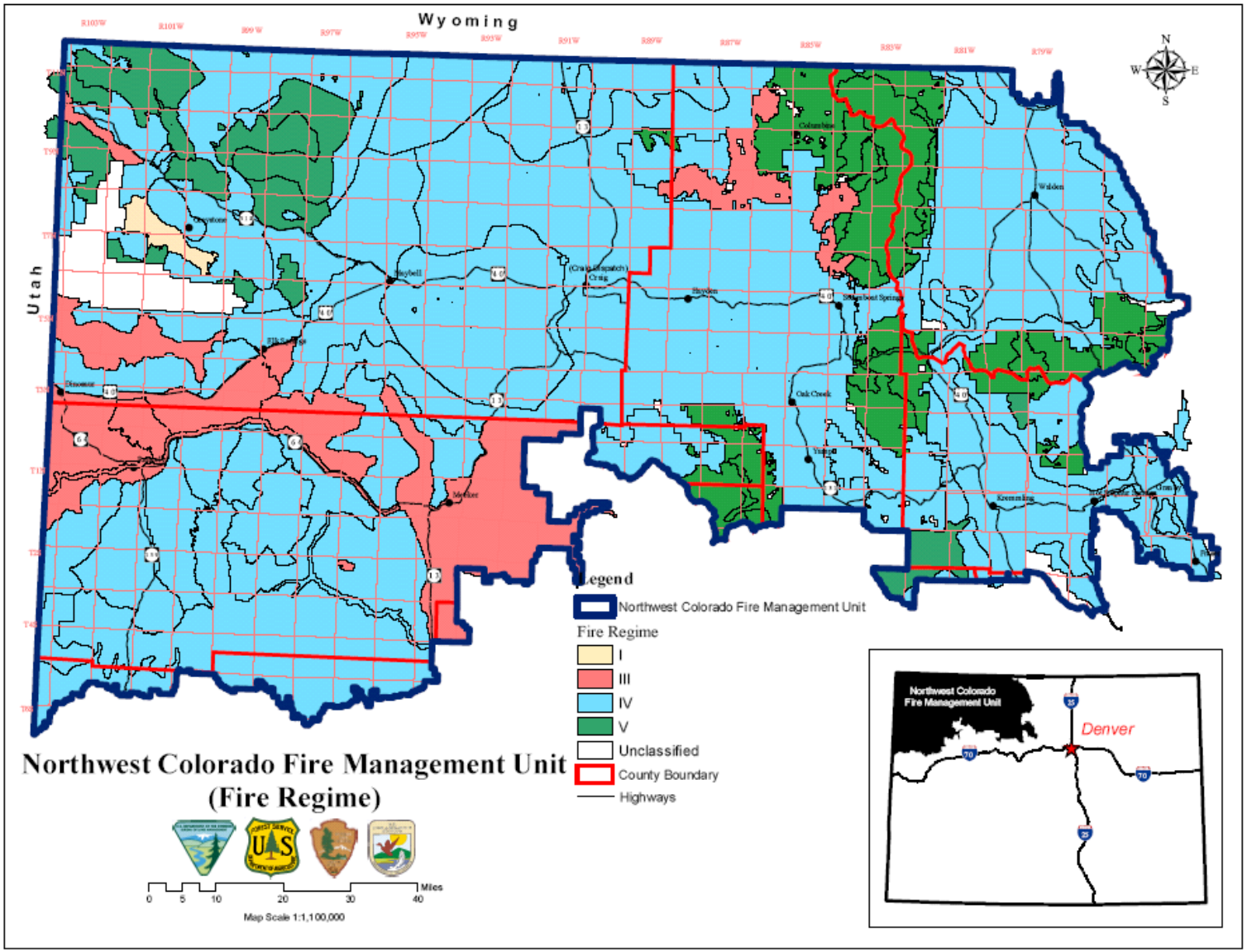
APPENDIX E (MAPS)



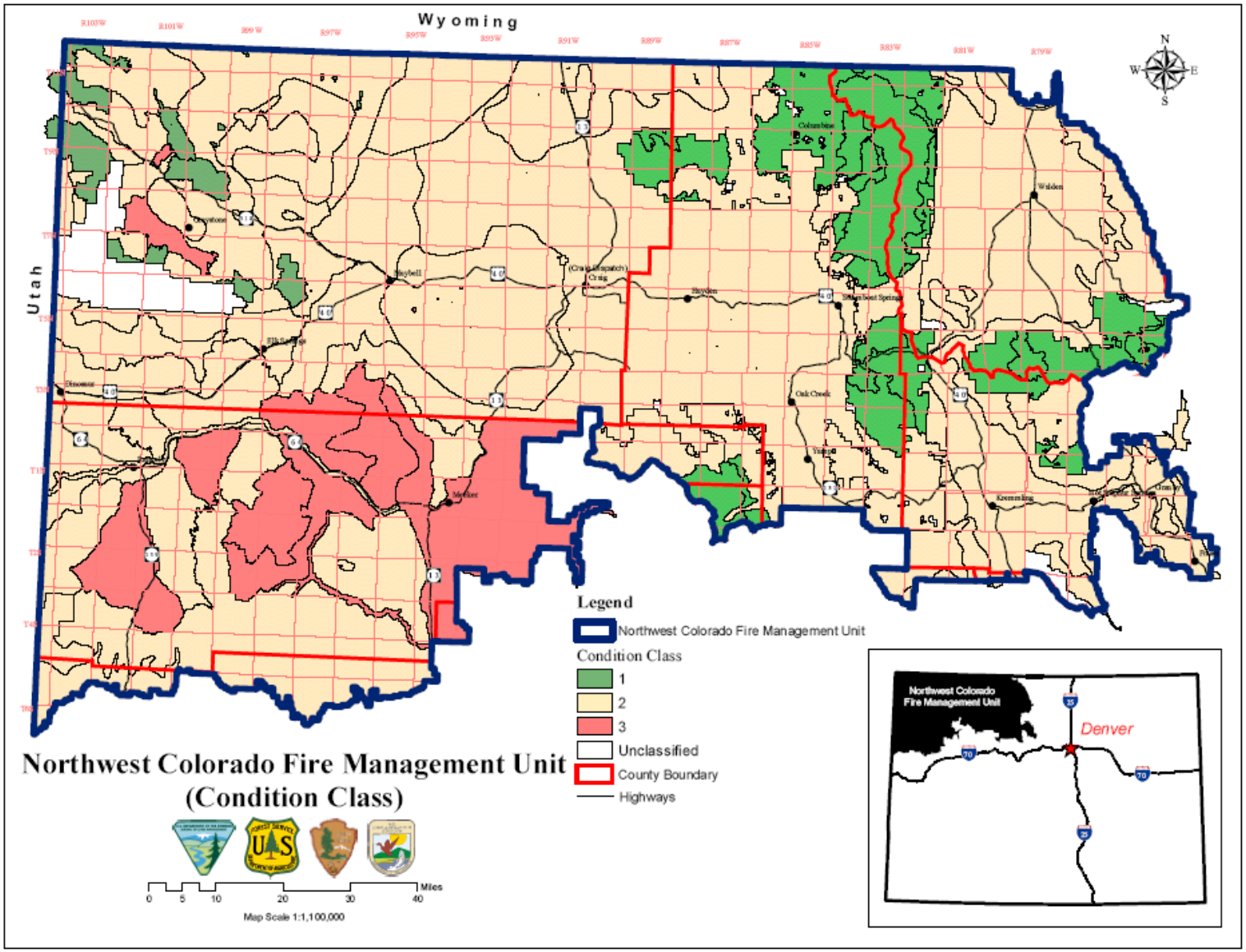
Map 1 Needs Updated for 2016



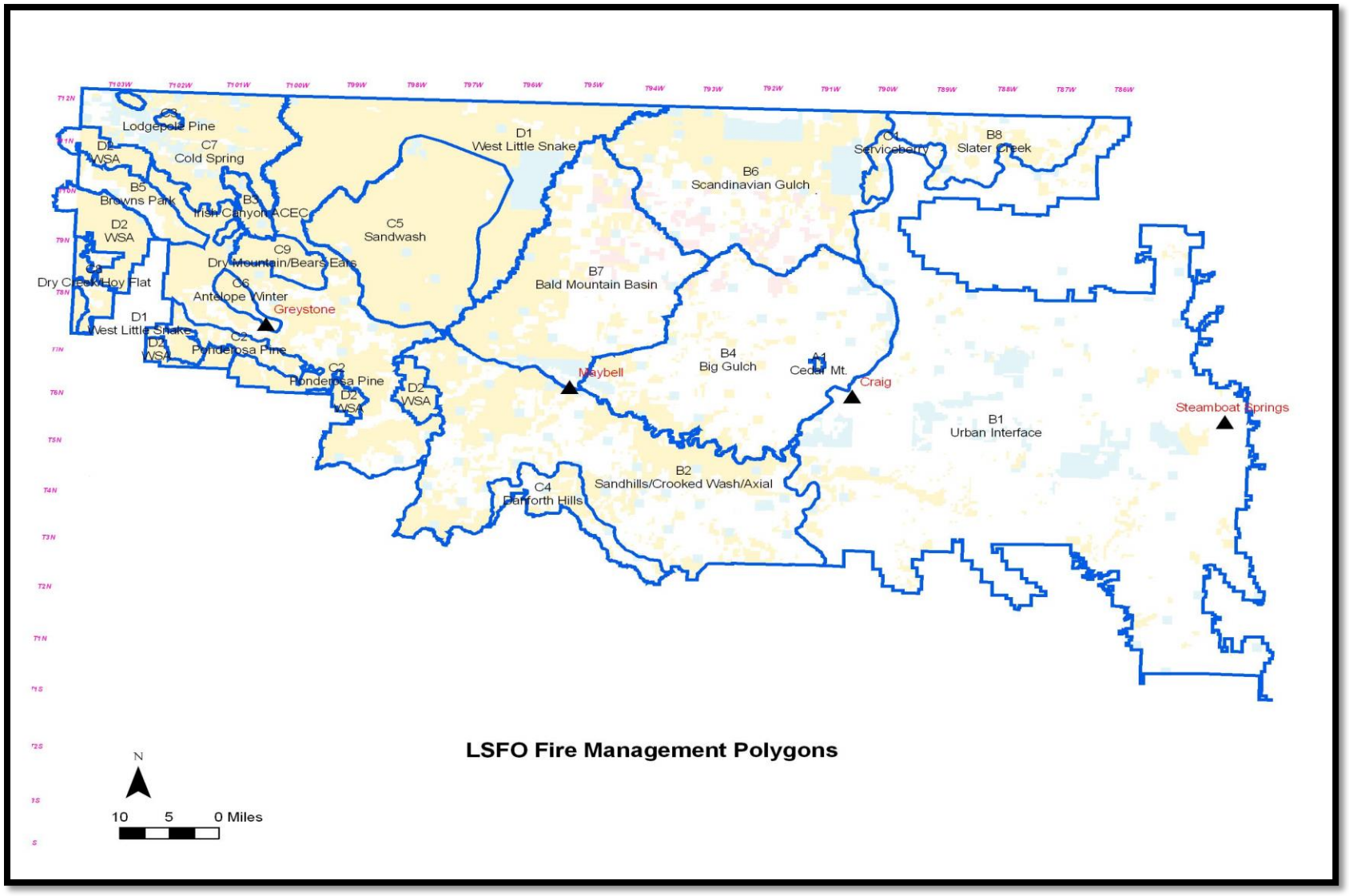
Map 2 Needs update for 2016


Wyoming
Utah
Legend
Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit
Fire Regime
I
III
IV
V
Unclassified
County Boundary
Highways
Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit
(Fire Regime)
Miles
0 5 10 20 30 40
Map Scale 1:1,100,000
Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit
Denver

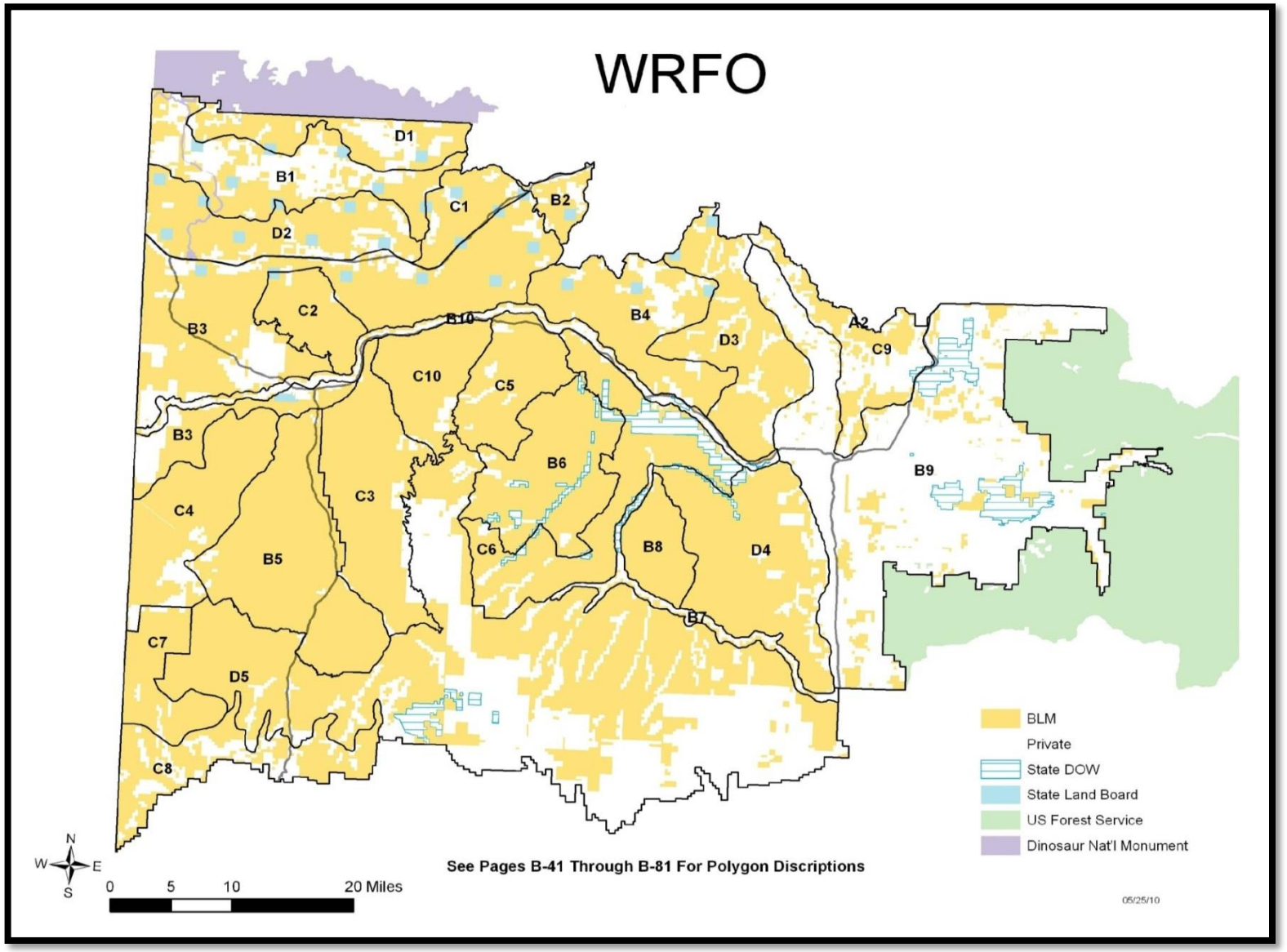
Map 3


Wyoming
Utah
Legend
Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit
Condition Class
1
2
3
Unclassified
County Boundary
Highways
Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit
(Condition Class)
Miles
0 5 10 20 30 40
Map Scale 1:1,100,000
Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit
Denver

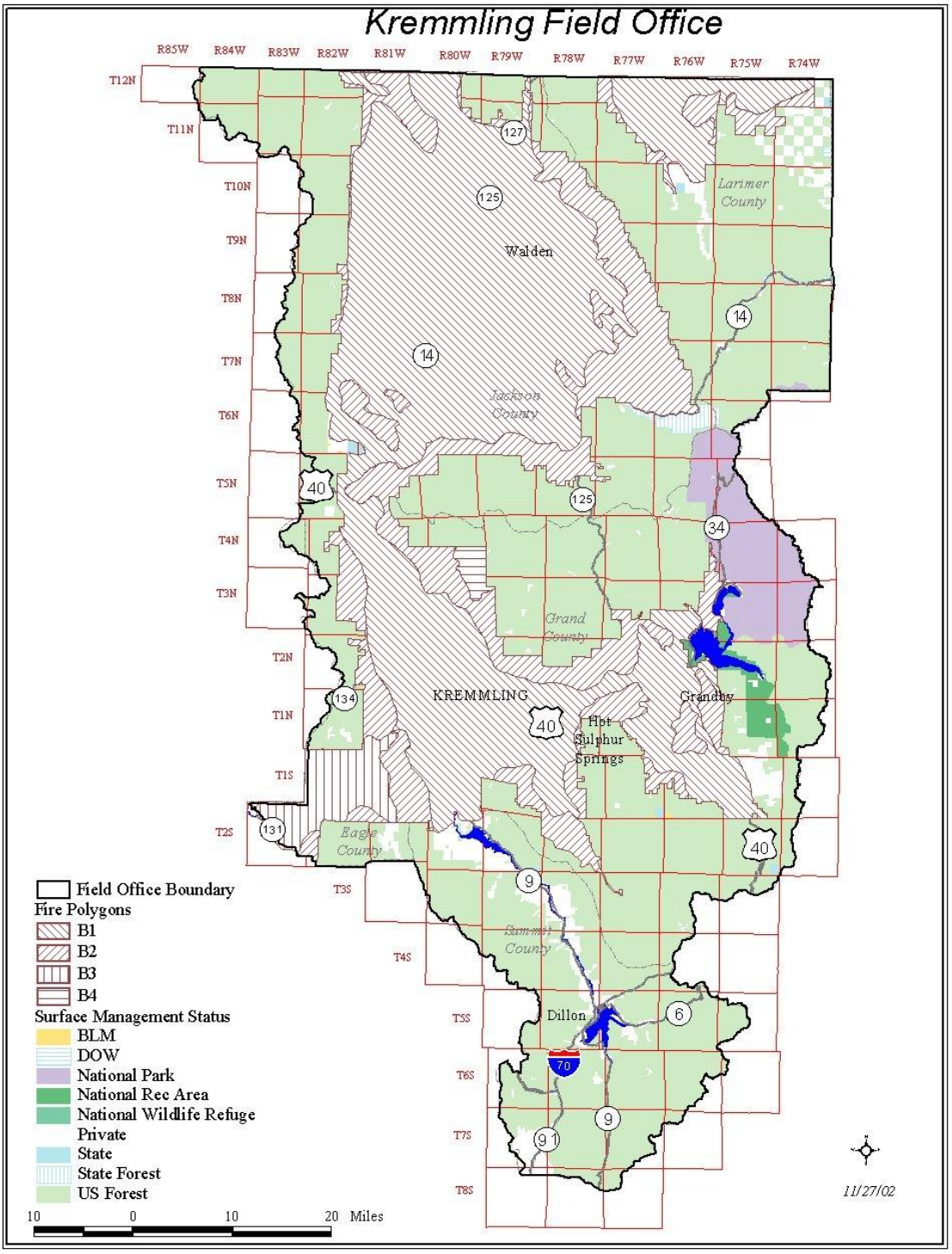
Map 4



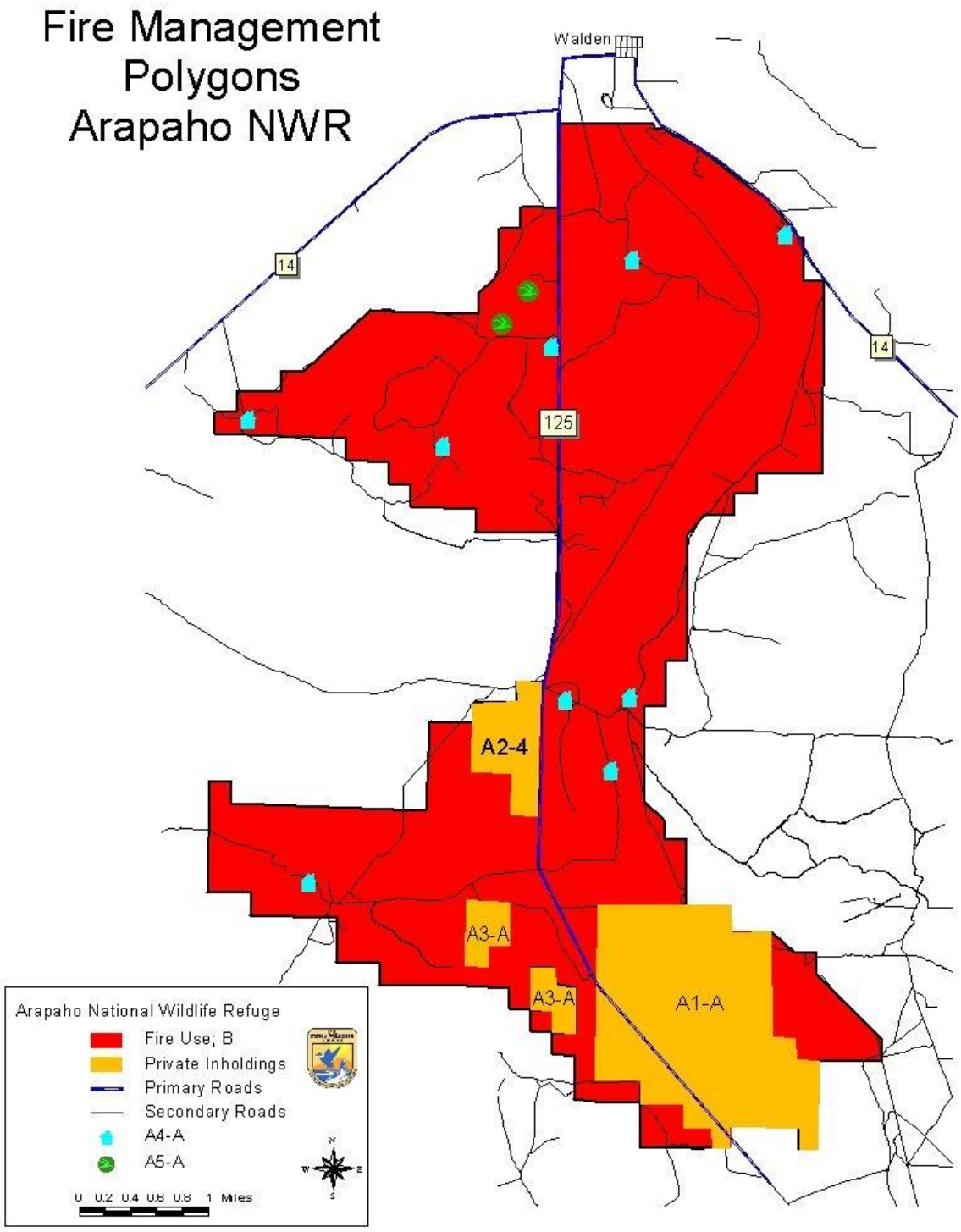
Map 5 Little Snake Field Office Fire Management Polygons


WRFO
D1
B1
C1
B2
D2
C2
B3
B10
B4
D3
A2
C9
C10
C5
B3
B6
B9
C3
C4
B5
C6
B8
D4
B7
C7
D5
C8
BLM
Private
State DOW
State Land Board
US Forest Service
Dinosaur Nat'l Monument
N
W
E
S
0
5
10
20 Miles
See Pages B-41 Through B-81 For Polygon Discriptions
05/25/10

Map 6


Kremmling Field Office
R85W R84W R83W R82W R81W R80W R79W R78W R77W R76W R75W R74W
T12N
T11N
T10N
T9N
T8N
T7N
T6N
T5N
T4N
T3N
T2N
T1N
T1S
T2S
T3S
T4S
T5S
T6S
T7S
T8S
Larimer County
Walden
Jackson County
Grand County
KREMMLING
Granby
Hot Sulphur Springs
Eagle County
Summit County
Dillon
Field Office Boundary
Fire Polygons
B1
B2
B3
B4
Surface Management Status
BLM
DOW
National Park
National Rec Area
National Wildlife Refuge
Private
State
State Forest
US Forest
10 0 10 20 Miles
11/27/02

Map 7


Fire Management
Polygons
Arapaho NWR
Walden
14
14
125
A2-4
A3-A
A3-A
A1-A
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
Fire Use; B
Private Inholdings
Primary Roads
Secondary Roads
A4-A
A5-A
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Miles

Map 8

APPENDIX F: NORTHWEST COLORADO FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT ORGANIZATION CHART